



The Eastlake News

Spring 2020

The Borders of Eastlake: I-5 page 14



Inside:

RapidRide Pro and Con pages 10-11

Terry Pettus Park Expansion page 4

Pete's Owner Retires page 6

Meet Your Downstairs Neighbors page 8

And much more...

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

website: www.eastlakeseattle.org
 email: info@eastlakeseattle.org

Detra Segar
 President

Margaret Sanders
 Vice President

Ben Wildman
 Treasurer

Joyce Lane
 Secretary

Board Members:
 Isaiah Berg, Steve Dunphy, Allison
 Peryea, Judy Smith

Editor:
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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 Detra Segar at advertising@eastlakeseattle.org.

The deadline for ads and submissions is: Feb. 10 for spring issue; May 10 for summer issue; August 10 for fall issue; Nov. 10 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.



Eastlake Community Council President's Letter

Dear Eastlake:

The days are lengthening and spring is just around the corner. This time of renewal is a beautiful time of the year. Your ECC board continues our renewal by actively pursuing the plans we laid out in October.

In January we met with the RR-J line official to continue the discussion on ways we can address concerns about the effect of a Rapid Ride bus system and protected bike lanes.

We also hosted Alex Pedersen, District 4 City Council representative, for a lively Town Hall meeting. It was wonderful to see so many of you participate.

February was the month for our "Meet your Board" meeting, working with those who attended to define the

priorities for 2020/2021. The topics we have landed on are -- transportation, membership/events, fundraising, public art/history, emergency and public safety, communications, and land use. Each of these have many subtopics. If you have interest or skills in any of these areas and were unable to attend the Feb 11 meeting please email us (info@eastlakeseattle.org). We promise to get back to you quickly to explore opportunities.

Our challenge grant was successful and we are pleased that so many of you chose to support Eastlake. If you missed that, The Eastlake Future's Fund is ongoing and a great way to become a member, renew your membership and continue your support.

I have been very impressed over the last few months by the positive response to our efforts. It is clear that many of you want to be an active part of your neighborhood. We are only an email away. Our goal to involve more residents and businesses in Eastlake in more ways will continue. Please join us.

Best wishes,
 Detra Segar



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Do you use the off-leash area in the Colonnade Park under the Freeway?

If so, we need to know your experiences both as an off-leash area and any safety concerns you might have about the area.

Eastlake Community Council members have been talking with Ken Wright, who is the Seattle coordinator for Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA). Ken would like information from area residents about what their off-leash needs are so he can advise Seattle Parks and Recreation about needed improvements and timely funding.

Because this park is located on a steep slope, the off-leash area is a unique design covering 1.2 acres with several large areas on different levels connected by walkways and some stairs. It has a crushed gravel surface, several benches, and a potable water source at the north entrance.

Please send user feedback about the use of the off-leash area to Ken Wright (ken.wright@seattlecola.org) directly.

Coming Events

Egg Hunt and Fun Run, Saturday, April 11, starting at 11 a.m. Check the ECC Facebook page for details.

Earth Week Shoreline Clean Up, April 16 & 18, see p. 13 for details.

Public Meeting with Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Andres Mantilla and Office of Economic Development Director Bobby Lee, April 21, TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tree Walk, back by popular demand! April 25, 10 to noon, with Arthur Lee Jacobson, author of *Trees of Seattle*, see p. 4 for details.



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Terry Pettus park expansion moves ahead

By Steve Dunphy

In early December, on only his third full day as a member of the Seattle City Council, Councilmember Alex Pedersen voted with a council majority to approve an important new addition to Terry Pettus Park on the shore of Lake Union.

The legislation authorized the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department to purchase more than 4,000 square feet along the shoreline, adding significantly to the park. This was a great win-win for Eastlake as the land originally had been purchased by Ride The Ducks for an entry/exit ramp for its tour boats.

The park was built in 1970-71 by volunteers and businesses, and named after the late Terry Pettus, labor journalist and longtime Secretary of the Floating Homes Association. It currently includes picnic tables, a beach and floating dock, but has suffered from neglect with vegetation overgrown and the floating dock and some of the pilings deteriorating. The Parks Dept. plans to redevelop the park in 2020.

Highlights:

- The expansion would provide additional park space in a developing urban village and double access to the Lake Union shoreline at this location.
- Ordinance authorizes Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) to purchase the property for open space, park and recreation purposes.
- SPR is currently working with the community on planning and cost estimates for the redevelopment of the park.
- SPR will finish design and work to secure funding in 2020. Construction projected in 2021.
- Purchase is part of the City's effort to increase park space in Urban Villages.

Libby Hudson, the department planner on the project, said in late January:

"I thought I'd update you on where we are with the park renovation project. I am happy to say that we have completed the feasibility study and used the estimates to develop

the budget for the park renovation. The adjacent acquisition of an approximately 4,000 square feet to the south will add waterfront property that will likely allow us to include an accessible pathway down to the water's edge as part of the renovation. This acquisition should be completed sometime this spring.

"I have packaged the park renovation into a design program so that the project can move forward, and we are almost ready to solicit for a design consultant.

"In February, we will be getting a project page up on the web, and a sign out on the site that describes the renovation project. I hope to have the first community meeting sometime in mid, to late May. Prior to that meeting, I plan on developing an online survey to solicit more input from interested people on the project, before the designer is on board. It takes some time to get a completed contract.

"I'm excited this project is being funded, and look forward to working with you all along the way."

SPR tried to acquire this property in 2010 when NOAA was moving out of town. But Ride the Ducks ended up acquiring the property in 2012 with the intention of putting in a boat ramp for its commercial operation. Due to recent liabilities related to the 2015 Aurora Bridge crash, Ride the Ducks decided to sell the property. Both the City and the adjoining landowner, US Seafoods, were interested in acquiring the property. SPR met with US Seafoods and the two parties agreed to split the acquisition.

The Eastlake community is grateful to US Seafoods for making this addition to the park happen.

Eastlake Tree Walk to be led by Arthur Lee Jacobson on Sat., April 25

The Eastlake Community Council has engaged the renowned Arthur Lee Jacobson, author of *Trees of Seattle* and many other books, for another ever-popular Tree Walk. Not to be missed, it will be Sat., April 25, 10 a.m. to noon, beginning at Roanoke Street-end Park (corner of Fairview Ave. E. and E. Roanoke St.). Meet and greet with refreshments begins at 9:30 a.m.

To describe Jacobson merely as a tree expert or tree writer is like saying a redwood is just a tree. He knows everything about trees, shrubs, and other plants and communicates about (and with?) them magically. And he walks (and bikes) his talk, having planted trees all over the city, including in Eastlake. If you want Jacobson's quick take on identification or diagnosis, he encourages you to bring a twig or photo. During the walk we may also identify and document trees important to the neighborhood in an effort to save them when development happens. We take a different route every year, and suggestions are welcome beforehand, to info@eastlakeseseattle.org.

HINES PUBLIC MARKET

14 Carrot CAFE

14 Carrot Gold

The 14 Carrot Cafe nests in the historical Hines Public Market building on the Eastside of Lake Union. Commercial vernacular buildings were built along major streetcar routes to provide nearby residents with groceries and other daily needs.

Eastlake Avenue was an important streetcar route, connecting downtown to the University District, first over the old Latona Bridge and later over the University Bridge.

This small commercial building has been an Eastlake fixture since 1923.

For years it housed a grocery and meat market; Carr's Fine Foods, owned by Arlyn Carr, and a meat market owned by Val Sorntag were here for more than fifteen years from the 1930s until the 1950s. At that time the sign said 'Carr's Fine Foods'.

There has also traditionally been a tavern here, starting with The Beer Parlor ran by Joseph Carroll in 1938, Mack's Tavern in 1952, the It'll Do Tavern in 1966 and now the Eastlake Zoo Tavern as well as the 14 Carrot Cafe which has been cracking eggs for over 40 years now.

The 14 Carrot Cafe opened its doors in 1977 by first owner Julia Miller who then sold it to Greek immigrant Eletheria "Terry" Proios in 1992.

Terry has been successfully running the show for 25 years now.

The awning still boast its beautiful Art Deco design reading "Hines Public Market".

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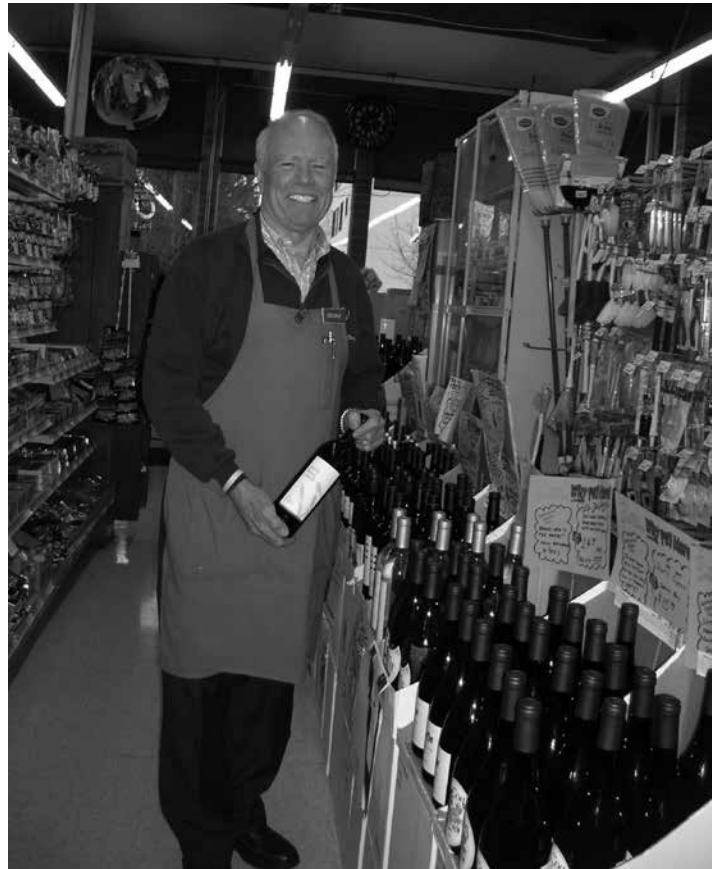
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Pete's Super Market owner George Kingen retires



by Chris Leman

After 47 years as owner-operator of Pete's Super (also known as Pete's Wines), George Kingen has sold the business. New owner Jon Bennet temporarily closed Pete's on February 15 for renovations, with reopening expected in March. A future issue of the Eastlake News will feature more about Bennet and his plans for the store.

Pete's was founded in 1971 by the late Pete Omalanz, who played such a central role in helping to found Lynn Street-end Park that a generation of Eastlakers knew it as "Pete's Park." In 1974, George Kingen owned a grocery store in Seattle's Madison Park neighborhood, and heard from his dairy supplier that Pete's was for sale.

For years, George Kingen owned many other grocery stores--25 stores at the peak. But Pete's remained his headquarters. Pete's was strictly a grocery store when he bought it, but he gradually expanded its wine selection and pioneered in offering deep discounts for wine and in shipping wines out of state.

Under Kingen's ownership, Pete's has been an important community presence, donating items to community auctions and hosting each winter a donations barrel for the University District food bank. On at least one Christmas Day, he paid a musician to provide live music in the store. Kingen's philosophy is presented on the store's web site:

"This family owned store serves the locals with their

daily shopping needs. With a fresh produce dept, fresh meat dept, service deli, and grocery items, Pete's has long been a friendly neighborhood store. Wine is the main focus of our store but the daily interaction with our neighbors keeps us in touch with a wide variety of tastes & interests."

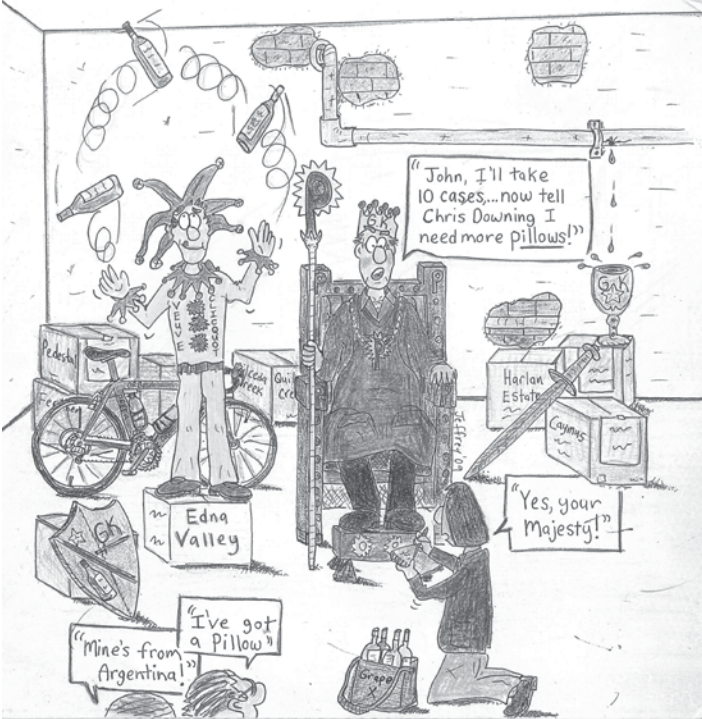


Photos left of George Kingen and above of George with a customer were taken by Diana Wurn in 2012.

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"It's Good to be the KINGen!"

George had excellent relations with his employees and suppliers, and they weren't shy about kidding him. The above 2009 cartoon satirizes the competition among wine distributors for shelf space, with the wine representatives shown as supplicants. It was drawn by a Pete's employee, who later was hired away by a wine distributor.

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Meet Your Downstairs Neighbors The Goofball Supergroup that Rocks Eastlake

by A.V. Eichenbaum

If you're walking on Roanoke right around sunset, there's a chance you might hear something unexpected.

High energy, raucous guitar finds its way through the cracks of a closed garage door.

The seed for Eastlake-based band Your Downstairs Neighbors was sown when Alexander Standish James struck up a fast friendship with Brennan Mackay – from the trunk of his car.

"We were on a film where I was the DP and we needed an action shot of someone driving," says Standish James, "so I just hop in this car with a camera and say, 'Okay, let's drive!'"

"And that was the day I learned how gullible Alex was," Mackay pipes up, "and how easy it was to trick him into doing things, and the friendship really just sort of sparked from that."

The plan to start a band, Mackay says, was formed out of a mutual love for music one New Year's Eve. "This is stereotypical, but we said, 'We're gonna make a resolution, right now, over the toilet, and we're gonna start this band out.'"

A born-and-raised Eastlaker, Standish James's first attempt to start the band took place in his parents' basement. "But my dad said 'I don't really want

to hear it, go to another roof,' so we moved out right across the alley way," he tries to hide a smile, "with our garage pointed straight towards his, so he hears every single practice."

Peals of laughter erupt from the rest of the group.

We're sitting in their kitchen, where they'd warmly welcomed photographer Jordan Ellingwood and myself for a cup of tea after band practice. The other members of the band – Straker Carryer (drums), Ryan Norwine (bass), and Kathryn Farrell (vocals) – are a lively bunch, chiming in with anecdotes and jibes wherever possible. They really feel like a family. "We're all stupidly lucky for how we all came together," says Standish James.

So, where did the name come from?

"I had a particular downstairs neighbor who slept on a pile of beer cans for some reason," says Carryer. "The reason I know this is the door was always open, and he was always walking around smoking. Naked. So the name also stems from Eastlake."

The carefree attitude they bring to the table doubly resonates on stage. They say it's simply because they're having a good time. "It works best when we all do what we do best," says Norwine. "We can even talk politics if

we want to," he laughs.

"You shut up right now," chuckles Farrell from across the room.

"We always come together pretty organically," says Mackay. "I never expect it, but I always appreciate it."

They also attribute some of their attitude (and success) to the neighborhood itself. "The sense of community in Eastlake is incredibly strong," says Carryer. "I think it's quite unique. Anyone in Seattle can fit in here."

"I think it's kind of rare in Seattle to have a neighborhood feeling. I owe a lot of it to my dad," muses Standish James.

His father, Jules James, is a familiar face at city council meetings and an undeniably influential figure in the community.

Continuing after a moment, he says. "He kind of made this neighborhood a neighborhood. It really feels like a home, and without that, it wouldn't have stemmed the seeds of making this band."

"I think that really translates to our vibe," chimes Farrell. "What feels special about us is we all really care about each other a lot, and we all have each other's backs. There's a real, genuine warmth and fun."

"And that's very Eastlake," smiles Carryer. "You can go into any store and just have a good conversation."

They have an EP out currently titled "Noise Complaint," as well as a cover of Beatles song "Oh Darlin'" they performed for a local independent film available online. But what does the future hold for Your Downstairs Neighbors?

Standish James is quick to answer. "What would be really cool is if we could get a bunch of us together and get some sort of festival going. There's a secret little music scene in Eastlake, and we haven't even tapped into the full potential of it."

If you're interested in seeing Your Downstairs Neighbors perform live, check their Facebook page for upcoming performances or just stop one of them on the street and ask. They said they wouldn't mind.

*Photo by Jordan Ellingwood
Band members left to right: Kathryn Farrell, Brennan MacKay, Ryan Norwine, Straker Carryer, Alex Standish James*

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RapidRide J and Protected Bike Lanes on Eastlake Ave. PRO

by Philip Weiss



Hello fellow Eastlakers! Two years ago, I co-founded a small group called Welcoming Eastlake for residents, property owners, workers, and others with a connection to Eastlake. We want a thriving, walkable and bikeable neighborhood that welcomes and houses a diverse

mix of people, including people of all income levels. We, along with our friends, Share The Cities, Cascade Bicycle Club, and Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, came to Councilmember Alex Pedersen's recent Eastlake town hall because we support RapidRide J.

I get around primarily by bus, but I recently purchased a bicycle. On my very first ride on Eastlake Ave. a driver passed me so close I could touch their car. A ton of metal close enough to send me flying if the driver so much as coughed at the wrong moment. The same street hosts the chronically delayed and frequently overcrowded #70. During peak hours, it's not uncommon to see five buses in a row, each delayed by 15-30 minutes.

RapidRide J brings faster, more frequent, and more accessible options for the many people whose primary mode of transportation is not driving. The neighborhoods along the route expect to have 29% population growth and a 50% increase in jobs. Better transit is needed for that growth, or Eastlake will become as congested as Mercer.

The project uses business and transit (BAT) lanes, queue jumps at signals, ADA-compliant bus stations with all-door boarding, and more to achieve 30% faster trips via transit. The J line will transport twice as many riders as the #70 will carry (21,000 vs. 10,000 trips) as well. That's 11,000 fewer car trips contributing to traffic congestion and global warming.

If the route is designed for it, bicycles can be used by people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, including seniors, children, delivery people, low income riders, and riders with disabilities. That means designing routes that are safe, comfortable, equitable and connected to the rest of the city. A comfortable Eastlake bike route needs to be relatively straight and level. A safe bicycle route separates cyclists from moving and parked cars.

The lack of safety is what keeps Eastlake Ave. from being Seattle's number one street for bicycling. Collision data shows that there were 37 reported injury accidents involving a car and a bicycle along Eastlake Ave. from 2012 to 2017. That's 37 too many. RapidRide J will rededicate 314 parking locations out of 1496 within one block of Eastlake (about 21%) to create a safe route for

bicyclists. No more close passes or right hooks that could seriously injure us.

A comfortable bicycling route limits the number of turns and doesn't include steep climbs. Unfortunately for our neighborhood, steep hills, Lake Union, and I-5 constrain where the city can put bicycle routes. SDOT studied nine alternatives for locating an Eastlake route. They ruled out a number of those because the routes had steep climbs, required acquiring new right of way, or put bicycles in more conflict with cars. Other options were eliminated because the routes would keep bicyclists away from business, hurting their bottom lines. The only feasible options were to route the bike lane a) on Eastlake, or b) northbound on Eastlake and southbound on Yale. The second option results in the loss of even more neighborhood parking than having the entire protected bicycle lane on Eastlake.

Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, New York City and San Francisco are showing that cities thrive with bicycle lanes where people feel safe. There are thousands of bicyclists who can be customers of Eastlake businesses. Study after study shows that bicycle lanes are as good as parking for business, and usually better (see Eric Jaffe, "The Complete Business Case for Converting Street Parking Into Bike Lanes", CityLab). Not everyone wants to use a bicycle, but right now there is no infrastructure in Eastlake for those who do, or for the thousands more who want to. RapidRide J, as currently planned, provides that infrastructure.

If you are interested in joining us to advocate for more housing, more affordable housing, better and faster transit, and safer infrastructure for bicyclists, pedestrians, and people who use mobility devices, find us on Facebook, Welcoming Eastlake, Twitter @WelcomeEastlake, or by email at WelcomingEastlake@gmail.com.

Philip Weiss is co-founder of Welcoming Eastlake

RapidRide J and Protected Bike Lanes on Eastlake Ave. CON

by Jules James



A pivotal question: will Seattle's Department of Transportation \$90 million RR-J project improve bus service for Eastlake?

The RR-J fails to improve bus transit convenience,

access and safety for Eastlake residents, employees and visitors.

Many Eastlake folk reach the UW campus by the Route 70 bus without stepping onto a crosswalk. The RR-J proposes a quarter mile journey across 12 unsignalized lanes of U District traffic. How is that more convenient? Or safer?

The bus to the U District likely will be busy once the Brooklyn Avenue Light Rail station opens. Again, the Route 70 provides door front service. Again the RR-J proposes a hill-and-dale hike.

Southbound? The RR-J is the Route 70 with lipstick, fast or slow depending on the Mercer Mess.

The RR-J fails to improve public transit for Eastlake.

The RR-J impedes mass transit by eliminating arterial curb access. Seattle requires major institutions and large employers to submit "Transportation Management Plans." The best are company-managed bus and shuttle systems – unsubsidized mass transit is urban reform with unlimited upside. Microsoft Connector buses run 19 routes. Fred Hutch and SCCA shuttles ply Eastlake. Amazon's buses allow riders to app-reserve a seat. But by eliminating curb access for other vehicles, SDoT is creating a de-facto government monopoly on common carrier transportation.

TMPs, Lyft, Uber, paratransit and eventually on-demand autonomous – all 21st Century urban transportation solutions – require increasing passenger loading capacity on the arterial. The RR-J excludes Eastlake Avenue from the transit advancements that are – and will – move far more than an arterial bike line.

The RR-J impedes neighborhood commerce. GPS-based meal delivery service is the primary growth market for neighborhood restaurants. With the elimination of curb access, SDoT is forcing DoorDash drivers across traffic lanes from the center lane. Is that really safer? No. The RR-J arterial bike lanes add risk for all.

SDoT's proposal to move load zones to side streets lacks an understanding of business. Commercial vehicles avoid loading on steep slopes, driving through residential streets and backing up for valid reasons.

Eastlake needs more load zones (currently: 2 shuttle, 4 truck, 5 passenger and 12 general) on flat roadway where the reverse gear is rarely needed. SDoT plans to eliminate them all.

The RR-J eliminates arterial parking. Parking isn't always just parking. Parking space on arterials is a most versatile land use. The "parking" lane on Eastlake has hosted marathons, bike-a-thons, parades, protests and the Olympic torch. Eastlake's curb lanes are used by trucks staging for construction sites, buses and shuttles in layover, damaged vehicles from collisions, and emergency vehicles responding.

Two hours daily, Eastlake's parking lanes become peak vehicle lanes, moving many thousands of commuters. The RR-J bike lanes will move a few hundred. Arterial parking inclusively benefits all stripes and sizes, abilities and frailties, incomes and ages. Arterial bike lanes are dominated by wage-driven white males.

Arterial bike lanes are not succeeding. Bike ridership is at an all-time high in Seattle. But once the street rental ridership spike passes, we again can expect declining ridership to resume. SDoT's 2018 Traffic Report: "2017 Census data indicate 2.8% of Seattle residents are using bicycles as their primary commute mode, down from 3.5% in 2016." The Seattle Times Traffic Lab, reporting on the city's automatic bike counter numbers just before street rentals began: Fremont Bridge down 6%, Spokane Street Bridge down 8%, Myrtle Edwards Park down 14%, Burke-Gilman Trail down 24%.

Just under 12 million adult bicycles were sold in 2018, slightly less than in the 20th Century. A per-capita decline in bike sales – e-bikes included – is underway.

Advocates of the Seattle Bike Master Plan chant the Iowa cornfield mantra of "Build it and they will come." The numbers say otherwise.

I expect RR-J bike lanes to die because Seattle is asking a vindictive President Trump for \$45 million cash during an election year. But the issue of bike lanes on Eastlake won't go away.

I believe neighborhood arterials are best over-used: bustling, chaotic and noisy. I enjoy the freedoms of bike riding – the cheapest of fuels and an abundance of parking. The RR-J forces a decision between the two. **Configure Eastlake Avenue for 21st Century commerce and transit. Do not segregate 34% of the roadway for the exclusive use of an able-bodied few.**

If you are pro - bikes, transit, pedestrians, neighborhood commerce, fiscal prudence or transparent governance – please oppose of the RR-J as proposed. Encourage the future to be actually SAFE.

Jules James is a member of Safe Access for Eastlake. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

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Mary's Corner



It's time to spring into those gardening projects

by Mary Hansen

It's spring! Time to step outside onto your porch or deck, wander around in your yard, and gaze at your garden area. Now is the time to start to envision your outdoor living areas and ponder the first steps toward creating this year's garden.

Last fall we talked about weeding, clean up and adding mulch to your garden. If you missed those steps or even if you didn't, spring is the perfect time to fluff up your soil and add some mulch or compost. Keeping your soil healthy is key to a successful garden: Soil is the foundation that keeps your plants robust and happy, and this helps keep pests and disease at bay, as they find their way to plants that are weak.

So, as spring arrives and our Eastlake gardens awaken, we want to be mindful of our pollinators. Early blooming plants provide food for them after their hibernation or migration. Pollination gives us our fruits, berries and nuts as well as supporting a healthy ecosystem. So, in honor of the faithful pollinators, you may want to consider adding some fruit trees or blueberry bushes to your landscape. If your space is limited, use the columnar apple variety which is a delicious vertical growing apple that I mentioned in the fall article and, if you plant blueberries, plant two of different varieties and keep them near each other - this helps with production.

If you are planting a vegetable garden this year, you will want to wait until after our last freeze. This tends to happen late March or early April and once it has past it's open season on vegetable planting! So carve out your

space now. If you have a parking strip in front of your residence, this can be a perfect place for a raised vegetable bed. If you want to forge ahead before the final freeze, you can plant a variety of perennial herbs such as rosemary, thyme, lavender, marjoram, oregano or mint. You will be glad that you added some of these to your garden. There is nothing better than fresh herbs for cooking or to add a little festivity to a summer beverage. Herbs grow beautifully in pots as well, so consider them and create a little entry *potager*.

Our local nurseries have lots of textured perennials, bulbs for spring color for porch or deck pots and fragrant Daphne and Sarcococca for your garden. Imagine if we all had one or two of these scented beauties in our yards, Eastlake would smell amazing every February!

Spring is a time of new beginnings, so even if you have never planted or potted your own garden, this could be the time to contribute to our Eastlake ecosystem by adding a few new plants this season.

Happy Gardening, Eastlake!

Think globally, act locally: April 16 & 18 shoreline cleanups

In recognition of Earth Week, the Eastlake Community Council invites residents, local businesses and their employees to help in Lake Union shoreline cleanup and maintenance work parties on Thurs., April 16 (anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.) and Sat., April 18 (10 a.m to noon).

The southeast shore is the last undeveloped shoreline area of any size on Lake Union. With native plants, wildlife, and quiet pathway it is a little known local gem enjoyed by walkers, runners, and people just looking for an "outside" break.

Volunteer work will occur along the public shore near and north of Lake Union Drydock, 1515 Fairview Avenue East. Please help with litter pickup, spreading mulch, and removal of over growing ivy and other weeds. Tools and work gloves provided, but if possible bring your own on Saturday.

Please share this notice with others. Businesses can support the effort by communicating awareness to employees and by encouraging employee participation, including letting them work "on the clock" if possible.

For questions and more information: info@eastlakeseattle.org or 206-322-5463.



www.lakeunionwatershed.com

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The Borders of Eastlake

by Matt Maberry



The eastern border of Eastlake is clearly defined by the Interstate 5 corridor, which runs the entire length of the neighborhood. Prior to the start of I-5 construction in 1962, the edge of Eastlake was less distinct, as it mingled with Capitol Hill. Installation of the highway was a controversial issue as soon as it was proposed in April of 1957, and the subject remains a sore spot with Seattleites and others alike.

Bitterness on the part of Eastlake residents may be attributed to a number of factors from increased noise and pollution, to major traffic influx. However, the principal complaint is likely the physical split of the community and the destruction of historic properties to pave the way for the interstate route.

Today the effect is clear when noting the proximity of many remaining homes to the colonnade and the severing of once-continuous roads. One such example of a property is the L'Amourita apartment building at 2915 Franklin Avenue East,

whose unique Spanish-Colonial architecture has graced the hillside since 1909. Although the residents have had to tolerate the presence of the Ship Canal Bridge, a mere stone's throw away, the building was spared destruction. Many buildings were not so fortunate.

Eastlake residents were some of the first in Seattle to feel the effect of the project when work on the Ship Canal Bridge commenced in August of 1958, which was the first portion. Plans for a highway through Seattle date back to as early as 1946 but were eventually integrated with the Washington State plans for I-5 in general. Final approval and land management began in 1958, setting off the use of \$75,000,000 in bonds approved by the state legislature to be paid to homeowners in the right-of-way. Acquisition began in Eastlake and moved southward along the route ahead of construction. After appraisal, residents were given an offer by the Highway Department. Approximately 10 percent of the homeowners refused the offers outright, which required condemning the property. Once the homes were in the state's possession they were auctioned, with most houses either being moved or stripped. Moving of homes from the area became so common that the height of the utility lines on 5th Avenue NE was increased for clearance.

Although the presence of the highway remains a nuisance to many, the community has made efforts to mitigate the burden by utilizing the structure in other ways. Plans to make the freeway a covered trench never fully materialized; however, today it acts as a roof for the I-5 Colonnade Open Space. This public park is roughly 7.5 acres between East Howe Street and East Garfield Street, and contains an off-leash dog area, and several mountain bike trails. Construction of the trails was performed by volunteers and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance starting in 2005, with many of the funds originating from neighborhood donors.

The ability of the community to adapt to the evolving face of the neighborhood is assuring in the face of contemporary zoning changes and construction projects.

For more Eastlake border photos see lakeunionwatershed.com.

Before and After: 2816 Eastlake Ave sketches by Karen Berry



About six years ago the house above, to the left of Annie's Hair Cuts on Eastlake Avenue, was torn down and replaced with four townhouses. You can see a slice of Annie's place to the right as well as the tree to the left in both pictures for perspective.



Board Secretary Joyce Lane leaving Eastlake

We're sad to see Joyce moving out of Eastlake. She has been active on the Eastlake Community Council periodically over the last 32 years. Most recently she served as board secretary,

which entails overseeing the nomination process for the ECC Board and documenting meetings. But she has taken on so many other responsibilities.

As Detra Segar, ECC board president, notes, "She was on the membership committee – we met so many times last year – to narrow down the definition of membership and how to organize outreach and response. She is always ready to work on things to clarify and make it easier. So, she not only manages the membership but was instrumental in making the process easier to manage. She and I started meeting well over a year ago on all kinds of ECC things, and she was always up for a new challenge."

She was also the ECC event coordinator, finding and scheduling meeting spaces, and managing the logistics of those meetings. As ECC treasurer, Ben Wildman, recalls, "Joyce has worked to have meeting and event attendees sign-in, collecting more contact information on Eastlake residents. Joyce has worked diligently to send 'thank you' notes to people who make a contribution to the ECC. She sent renewal notices encouraging people to renew membership and worked with me to manage ECC mail. Plus, many other tasks I'm not thinking of!"

Besides a passion for her community, she is a big fan of trees (she coordinated the Eastlake tree survey) and was a staff member of Plant Amnesty. She recently finished organizing the tree walk with Arthur Lee Jacobson (see page 4).

At the same time, she loves all city things, like the opera.

ECC vice president Margaret Sanders (speaking for many of us) added, "I love her humor."

We're going to miss Joyce terribly. She leaves big shoes to fill. But we wish her and her husband, Walt, all the best in their new locale on the Washington Coast.

Photo above from July 2018 when Joyce, representing the ECC, won a raffle at a Washington State Credit Union stakeholder event.

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Ruth Kunath: public gardener, lion of finance



Ruth Kunath, who passed away in November 2018 at the age of 66, was a devoted steward of Hamlin street-end park. She had been among the many volunteers who in 1992 helped the Eastlake Community Council (along with a Seattle street-use permit and grant, and donations from individuals and businesses) create the park on a rubble-strewn and forgotten site.

Over the years, Ruth and other residents of the nearby Hamlin Shores condominiums improved the plantings and watered them in the dry months, making the park among Eastlake's most beautiful and loved. It did not bother her that some of the visitors stepped on plants or left a mess for volunteers to clean up. As she would say, "it is for the public and I am glad people appreciate it and have a safe place to picnic."

In her financial career at Seafirst Bank and then as one of the first five employees of Vulcan Inc., Ruth was equally focused. She helped build billionaire Paul Allen's investment portfolio and helped turn Seattle's biotech industry into a national powerhouse. She served on board positions in multiple companies and nonprofit organizations, including Women in Bio.

Born March 5, 1952, in Missouri, Ruth Lakenan Barnes Kunath graduated from DePauw University in Indiana. Her son Spencer recalls a "Midwestern sensitivity [that] was the anchor of her success both in her professional and personal life."

Family was foremost, as well as gardening. Ruth created unique baby blankets as gifts and threw herself into genealogy and fly fishing. Spencer honors her as a "renegade who didn't push you to go faster in the race, but rather pulled you forward with love. She was a doer who turned dreams into reality."

Donations in Ruth Kunath's memory are accepted by the L. B. Hawthorne Scholarship, c/o Mexico Public Schools, 2101 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri 65265. The scholarship supports local high school students. Ruth's grandfather was the superintendent of public schools in the Missouri town for nearly 40 years.



Book Group Forming

Is anyone interested in an Eastlake book group? Logistics will be decided by the group (what day, what time, how often, where, what kinds of books, etc.)—we're gauging interest right now. Contact Pandora, pandoraeyre@comcast.net 206-353-6398 or Erika, erika.lim@msn.com 206-650-3818 if you're interested. We're tentatively planning to start meeting later this spring.



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If we missed anyone, please let us know!



Who takes care of Eastlake's Parks?

With the passing of Ruth Kunath, who was instrumental in making Hamlin a horticultural park (see page 16), we started wondering who else takes care of all the small parks and green spaces around Eastlake. Turns out a lot of unsung people do. We'll do a follow-up article for the summer Eastlake News. If you know of a guerrilla gardener, let us know, info@eastlakeseattle.org.



EASTLAKE READY: Your Ditch Kits

By KC McNeil

What comes to mind when you say “Kit”?

Maybe you are planning an overseas vacation, a camping trip, or a DIY project at home. Depending on your event, you will need personal items like a toiletries kit, a mess kit, or a tool kit. Boaters know they need a “ditch-kit” on hand to jump from a sinking ship. A “kit” means that you have invested time to be prepared for a task that includes your safety and comfort.

Seattle’s Office of Emergency Management is a good source to research what to include in your general disaster preparedness supplies. Their focus is mainly on your family’s safety and the materials needed to shelter in place.

Aside from your household emergency supplies, having something like a boater’s “ditch-kit” under your bed with immediate emergency supplies, like sturdy shoes and flashlight, will help you be prepared should an earthquake strike at night. After the shaking has stopped, you will have time to evaluate your next move.

Prepare a “ditch-kit” for your car, too (and, if your employer doesn’t already have an emergency plan, for your workplace). The items needed for this kit are similar to what would be needed for a long hike.

The Mountaineers provide guidelines for preparation and avoidance of natural disasters while enjoying our natural environments. One important keystone they have developed for outdoor travel is the packing tool known as the “10 Essentials” listed below:

To prevent emergencies and respond appropriately

1. Navigation – compass & map
2. Headlamp
3. Sun protection
4. First Aid
5. Knife

To safely spend a night – or more – outside

6. Fire
7. Shelter
8. Extra food
9. Extra water
10. Extra clothing

The 10 Essentials are useful things to think about for your individual situation and for creating your car’s “ditch-kit.”

Store your car’s kit in a backpack and take it out for a practice run. Pick a cold wet rainy day to test out your supplies. You will be better informed and prepared through thinking about your actual use of your kit. Plus you will be able to identify necessary improvements. Building your “ditch-kit” now will provide you with the peace of mind needed to jump-ship or make that long walk home after a disaster.

Neighborhood Updates by Steve Dunphy



SDOT Photo

Fairview Bridge (above): Crews have completed the construction of the temporary work trestle. This is a temporary work bridge that will be used for the next stages of bridge demolition and construction. Crews also continued demolishing a portion of the eastern bridge.

To maintain the project construction schedule, crews plan to work Saturdays.



Floatplanes: The Seaplane Environmental Coalition (SEC) has been re-established and is meeting with Kenmore Air. It is trying to get a lake use plan agreed upon by all the stakeholders, and then it will be presented to the City. If the City will not deal with it, the state will be approached. The Eastlake Community Council sent a letter to all concerned in January, expressing its support for a compromise that works for all.

Development: Construction has begun on the Aegis Living building on Eastlake Avenue East. It will be the first assisted living community to meet the global green/sustainability building standards with a Living Building Challenge certification. It is scheduled to open in October 2021.

ECC Volunteer Positions Available

Board Secretary – Join the ECC Board and Executive Committee and participate in the ECC decision-making process, assist with agenda development and note-taking for both the monthly Executive Committee and General Board meetings. Manage the annual Board nomination process and Board elections.

At-Large board positions – We have two open at-large Board positions. If you are interested in being on the Board let us know. The Executive Committee will review applications of interest for the Board and appoint acting Board members until regular voting can occur. Board members need to be respectful of all opinions, flexible, and willing to work as a team for the greater good. Decisions are made by consensus whenever possible, majority rule when that is not possible.

Events Coordinator – We need someone to work with TOPS-Seward School and other area businesses to coordinate public meetings, social events, and fundraisers. You would work closely with a Board member who is involved in events coordination and maintains our social media presence.

Membership Coordinator – We need someone to track membership, send out renewal requests, update and manage an Excel spreadsheet of members. This person will work closely with the Board Secretary on sending out ballots for the annual Board elections and processing the election returns.

Business Coordinator – This position works closely with the Eastlake business community, for securing sponsorships in the Eastlake News. (Our Board president was in this position for several years prior to becoming president. She will assist in getting someone new up to speed.)

Webmaster – We need a new website and someone to lead a team to build and maintain it.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Eastlake Community Council at info@eastlakeseattle.org



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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.



The **14 Carrot Cafe** (2305 Eastlake Ave E.; on Facebook) was one of the statewide attractions featured on the January 21 edition of Evening Magazine, the KING-TV channel 5 show. TV hosts Kim Holcomb and Jose Cedeno anchored the one-hour show from a 14 Carrot dining table, with a busy kitchen and many customers visible in the background. One of the featured dishes was the carrot cake pancakes.

Pomodoro Spanish-Italian Restaurant (2366 Eastlake Ave. E.; <http://www.pomodoro.net>) and the **College Club** (11 E. Allision Street; <http://collegeclubseattle.com>) earned unqualified praise from editor Diane Snell in the September 2019 issue of the *Leschi News*. She was enthused about their quality, responsiveness, and beautiful surroundings in a rehearsal dinner and wedding she organized. ... **Serafina** (2043 Eastlake Ave E., <http://serafinaseattle.com>) has reopened after several weeks of intensive renovations, in part to reduce sound levels.

Gilead Sciences, Inc. (199 E Blaine St, <http://www.gilead.com>) is in the forefront of the worldwide fight against the Corona Virus. In March 2020 the company will begin trials in several countries of how its antiviral drug remdesivir may help patients who are moderately ill or severely ill with the dangerous infection.

To submit news items, for questions, or to volunteer: info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

Mention here does not imply endorsement by the ECC, writers, or editor.

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Eastlake Future's Fund

Beginning in 2021, we are moving all our membership renewals to January. As a volunteer-run organization, we believe this will be a more efficient process to manage memberships. With this change in mind we are pro-rating new and renewing memberships now through December 31, 2020.

We will recognize all new and renewing member donors for 2020 in next spring's issue of the Eastlake News*.

Thank you for your support.

Members	Anchors	Cornerstones	Walking Fish	Dreamboats
				
<p>\$35 \$26 individual \$40 \$8 student, low income, senior \$75 \$56 business</p>	<p>Donations above membership level from \$1-99</p>	<p>Donations above membership level from \$100-499</p>	<p>Donations above membership level from \$500-999</p>	<p>Donations above membership level from \$1,000+</p>

Become a member and/or donate today by filling out the form below or go online at: eastlakeseattle.org.

Membership includes being able to vote for the Eastlake Community Council board members (as well as run for

office if nominated) and an invitation to member events.

* Please indicate how you would like to be listed or if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

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

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>

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

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