



SPRING 2023

# THE EASTLAKE NEWS

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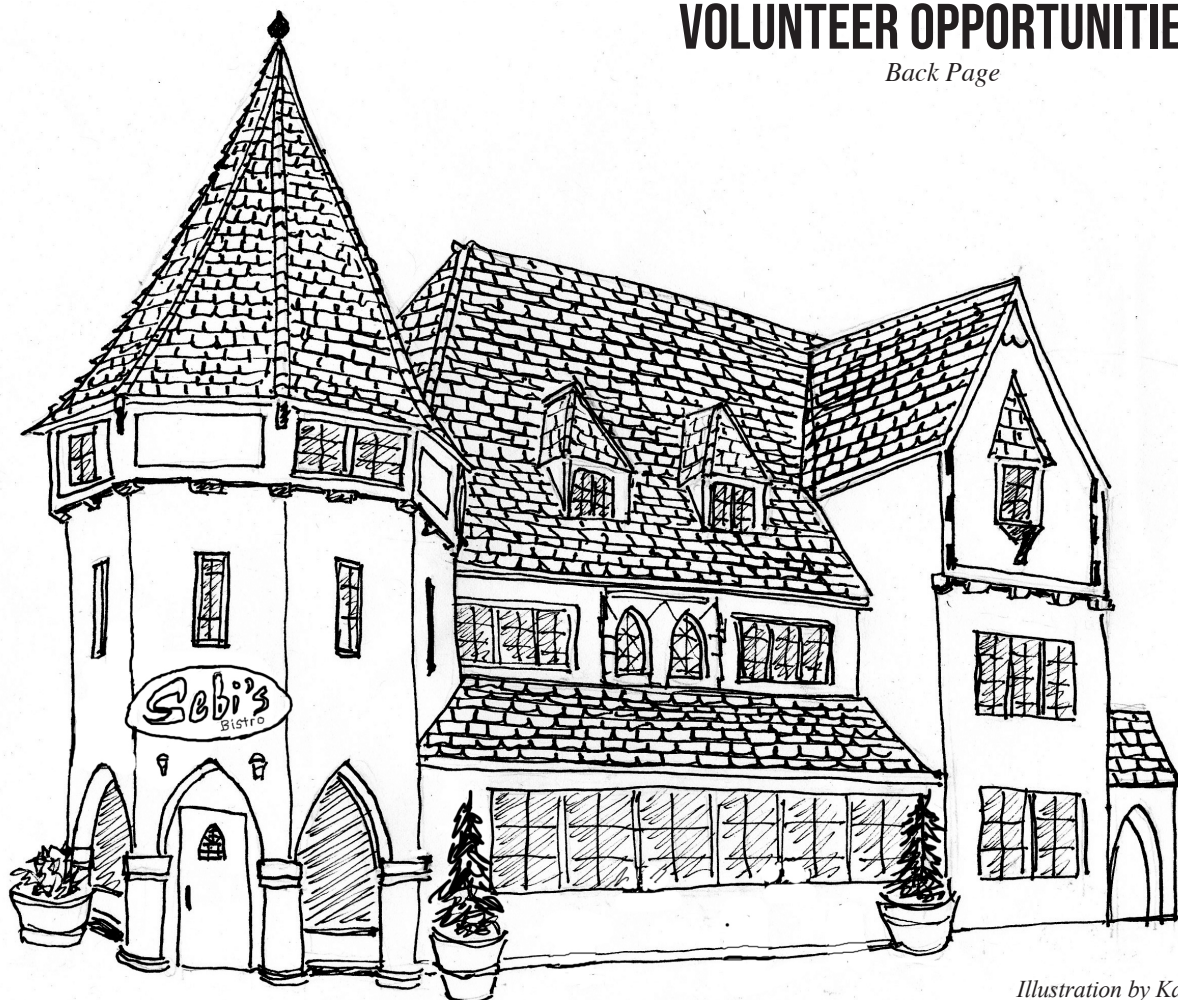
## THE CASTLE IN EASTLAKE

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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*Illustration by Karen Berry*

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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.

**Publication schedule is as follows:**

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

## ECC PRESIDENT'S LETTER *Detra Segar*

Spring is here along with longer days and more glimpses of sunshine. It is a good time to be optimistic and forward thinking.

ECC hopes to resume in-person meetings this year. Like most groups, we learned that virtual meetings can be helpful and allow people who may not normally be able to attend to participate. Being together is more fun and makes it easier to have conversations and exchange ideas. While many of you are dealing with hybrid work arrangements, we too will be figuring out what is the best approach. Watch for updates on the website and emails.

Outdoor activities for Spring are scheduled. Coming up first will be Dave Galvin's bird walk on April 8 and the details are in this issue. We have a park clean up on April 2 at Good Turn to continue the project that was started 18 months ago. April 2 from 9 AM – noon, join us at 3201 Fairview Ave E just south of Union Marine. Our annual Earth Day effort is now One Seattle Day of Service and will be held on May 20. See separate note in this issue for details.

City Council elections are ahead of us, a new One Seattle Comprehensive Plan in the works as well as updates on Rapid Ride – J line. There will be many reasons for us to listen, provide feedback and stay informed this Spring.

### Updates:

#### **Jan 26 Property Crime meeting:**

ECC and the Eastlake Merchants Association hosted a virtual community meeting with the West Precinct on January 26. The topic was property crime and safety in Eastlake. The level of everything from package

snatching to business breaks-ins has been occurring too frequently.

We heard from businesses and residents about their

concerns. Captain Steve Strand from the West Precinct and Barb Biondo, West Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, provided us with updated information. Barb, offered proactive ways of prevention with a focus on making it more difficult to break in. Under reporting is a problem and several participants were not happy with the reporting process as it is now handled. A new online reporting process has been developed but is not in place as yet.

Barb is available to do assessments of businesses and multi-unit residential complexes. Several attending the meeting took advantage of this.

We all want the current environment to be corrected and it was good to see the level of interest. There is no simple solution but we can be proactive in our response, report and inform each other, especially neighboring businesses or residents when something is spotted. Being aware and having eyes on the streets is helpful for the neighborhood and the West Precinct.

Thank you to John Bennett from Pete's and the Eastlake Merchants Association leaders for helping put this together.

#### **The Rapid Ride – J**

The extensive input from last year's meetings and surveys led to adjustments in the way bicycle traffic will be handled at key intersections. Options for limited parking in the



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most dense retail blocks on Eastlake Ave. also has received attention. These additions are at the final design review stage and we should see them posted shortly along with the results of the RPZ study that was completed.

### **Fairview Ave East Green Street – from Newton to Roanoke:**

The treatment of Fairview Ave E has been an issue for over a decade. Over the years the community has proposed several ideas and none have been adopted. We are currently working with a group from SDOT to see if there could be more clarification about the many new projects along this stretch of Fairview.

A small group of interested Fairview residents recently gathered for a walk with the SDOT team. Permitting of new projects on Fairview Ave between Newton and Roanoke was part of the discussion as well as public right of ways. This project is in the beginning stages and is a partnership with a team from SDOT. There will be much more about this as it progresses and there will be more opportunity for participation.

### **Land Use:**

The Land Use committee continues to keep us updated on new projects. Please note that it

now posts changes to an existing project.

One of our last in-person meetings before the pandemic was a “meet the board” opportunity. We are hoping to revisit that format. There has been good participation in meetings that have been virtual but this is one where being in person is better. We are looking forward to hearing what your thoughts about Eastlake are.



**Scan the QR Code to learn how to get involved!**

## **THANK YOU EASTLAKE NEWS DELIVERY TEAM!**

The Eastlake News would not have existed for the past 51 years without the dedication and tireless effort of the Delivery Volunteers and coordination by Chris Leman. Special thank you to Chris for his dedication to the Eastlake News.

If you are interested in being part of the Eastlake News delivery team, reach out to: [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net) Delivering The Eastlake News is the perfect way to stroll the neighborhood and be involved in the community all at the same time!

## **DRAW FOR THE EASTLAKE NEWS**

Attention Eastlake artists and writers! The Eastlake News is always open for submissions of written and visual work to be featured in this quarterly newsletter.

If you are interested in sending us article pitches, creative writing or artwork to be featured, please reach out to us at: [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org).

The deadline for the Summer 2023 issue is May 10th.

## **GROUP ECC MEMBERSHIP**

The Eastlake Community Council is offering a new way to join: Group Registration. Those living in condos, houseboat moorages and apartments can join the ECC en masse. It's easier than for everyone to join singly.

### **How it works:**

- Memberships are unchanged: the 35-dollar level for an Individual, and the 10-dollar level for Senior/Student/Low Income.
- Every home within the group must have at least one person joining the ECC.

- Minimum group size: six units.
- The ECC works with the group's point-of-contact to gather member data.
- The group sends one check for the sum of membership fees.

With Group Registration, the annual membership renewal process will become easier as we will send back a copy of the previous year's info and the group's point-of-contact will update it for a few individuals, if any.

Our reassurance to all new members: the ECC operates on the internet, but we use e-mail sparingly and won't clutter your inbox. And we don't share members' information with anyone.

Would you like to know more? Contact ECC Membership Coordinator Peter Haley at [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org).

## **SUBSCRIBE TO THE EASTLAKE NEWS BLOG**

Construction of the Eastlake Blog continues as we work through punch list items. If you tried to contact us through the “Contact Us” link or subscribe via the pop-up message, our apologies as both those items were non-functional. The subscribe pop-up should be working by the time this hard copy Eastlake News hits the streets.

So please check us out and subscribe! We will never share your email, and your free subscription shows your support for the Eastlake News volunteer-run blog. Speaking of volunteers, we are looking for more people to administer, post, and contribute to the blog. If you're interested, the best way to contact us is through the ECC email account: [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org). Find us at: [eastlakenews.org](http://eastlakenews.org)

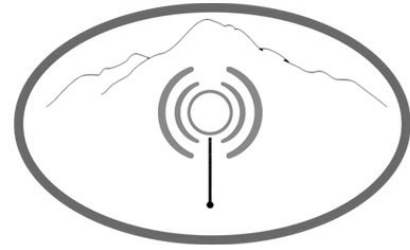
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Seattle Emergency Hubs

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: FRIENDS & FAMILY CONTACTS

By Eastlake Emergency Communications Hub Representative

I used to be able to recite the phone numbers of my friends and family off the top of my head. Could I do that today? Not likely! All those numbers are stored in my phone contacts, but I rely on my phone being charged to access them. What would I do in an emergency if I lost my phone, couldn't recharge it, or had to rely on using someone else's?

Here are two suggestions for ensuring you can reach loved ones following a large scale event like a power grid failure or a catastrophic earthquake:

1. Make a hard copy of phone numbers and email addresses for important contacts. Put a copy in your wallet and in your emergency bags (home, work, car).
2. Consider buying an alternative power source for your cell phone. While there are many to choose from, here are a couple that are highly rated, reasonably priced, and available on Amazon.

- Eton American Red Cross Crank-Powered Clipray Clip-On Flashlight & Smartphone Charger, Red <https://a.co/d/dAO102j>

- Emergency Hand Crank Radio with LED Flashlight for Emergency, AM/FM NOAA Portable Weather Radio with 2000mAh Power Bank Phone Charger, USB Charged & Solar Power for Camping, Emergency <https://a.co/d/ieqpDwC>

Questions can be directed to [eastlake.hub@gmail.com](mailto:eastlake.hub@gmail.com)



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## DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES, WELCOME TO EASTLAKE!

*By Eastlake Community Council*

The Seattle Redistricting Commission completed its work last fall and the new City district map moves the Eastlake neighborhood from District 4 to District 3 going into the elections later this year. District 3 Councilmember Kshama Sawant has said she will not seek re-election. That opens the race to new candidates, and several have already announced they are running.

District 3 in the past has been mostly Capitol Hill and the Central Area, and as a result candidates might not have been in the Eastlake neighborhood – except to drive through it on their way from one part of the city to the other.

Since candidates might not know much about our neighborhood, this memo is designed to fill them in on our pleasant jumble of houseboats, single-family homes, apartments, condos and large and small businesses. Eastlake is unusual in that all its parcels are zoned multi-family – a fact that has changed the neighborhood in the past few years as the implementation of the Mandatory Housing Affordability ordinance took effect. Eastlake Avenue has several large projects under construction – six and seven stories tall – with more on the way.

Eastlake has been a recognizable neighborhood since since the 1890s. With the opening of the University Bridge in 1919, travel through Eastlake was encouraged and soon Eastlake became a streetcar neighborhood of small homes and apartments, houseboats, and small businesses. Along Lake Union industrial uses grew up. Boeing's first factory was located at the foot of East Roanoke Street. In 1962 the I-5 freeway came roaring through the neighborhood, defining Eastlake's eastern edge and changing the neighborhood forever.

Our sliver of Seattle is now defined by the Freeway, Lake Union, the University Bridge and the Fairview Avenue bridge near the Fred Hutch. The Eastlake Community Council was established in the 1970s as part of the Roanoke Reef effort to restrict over-water construction on Lake Union. Since then, the ECC has been a strong advocate for the neighborhood, playing major roles, for example, in the Roanoke Reef battle and in the creation of the 1999 Eastlake

Neighborhood plan.

The Council has represented the varied parts of the neighborhood with membership drawn from homeowners, apartment dwellers and businesses. The Eastlake News, published continuously for 50 years, is one of the few neighborhood news publications left in the city.

Here are some of the major issues our neighborhood faces:

**Development:** As mentioned above, the MHA ordinance changed the character of the neighborhood. Higher buildings are now allowed along Eastlake Avenue East and Boylston Avenue East. An example is the project under way at Eastlake and East Louisa Street – 270 apartments to be added to an already dense neighborhood. How dense? The number of Zone 8 RPZ permits are double the number of actual parking places in Eastlake.

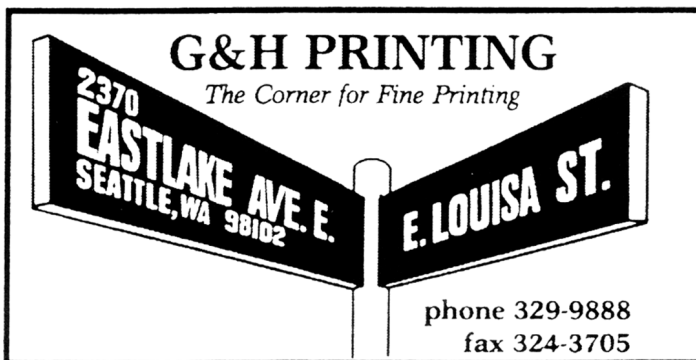
**Transit:** Eastlake supports public transit and its use over cars. However, the City Department of Transportation continues to push an unneeded “rapid-ride” project in the neighborhood. The #70 bus already provides us with adequate transit from Eastlake to South Lake Union and Downtown. The SDOT project would eliminate most parking along Eastlake Avenue, a death knell for many of the small businesses and restaurants. There is also an equity issue – we have ours: Good bus line, the Fairview Bridge repaired, and so forth. Other parts of the City could benefit from the \$70 million planned spending for Eastlake. With development, we need upgrades to sewer and water line under Eastlake and for the street to be repaved. But we do not need an expensive new transit line.

**Livability:** There are many trees in Eastlake being threatened by development. We have street-end parks that are overgrown, yet some with viable mini-parks that need attention. Terry Pettus Park at Fairview and East Newton Street is a good example. Good Turn Park, at the north end of Fairview, is another. Like many neighborhoods, Eastlake has had periodic issues recently with large encampments of RVs.

**The Bridge:** The University Bridge needs repair. It was stuck open for more than four hours one day this past spring causing backups. The SDOT rapid-ride project will spend \$70 million on a new unneeded bus line, but there is nothing in the project for the bridge. The lack raises questions about the priorities and decision-making skills of the City.

**Business Community:** Eastlake has many small businesses that depend on parking. The proposed RapidRide J Line would eliminate many parking spaces. In addition, it proposed that loading zones be moved to hilly side streets or alleys – difficult for many businesses on Eastlake Avenue. Our currently viable business community is threatened by an unnecessary project.

These are just a few of the issues our neighborhood faces. We hope you will visit us soon. The Eastlake Community Council offers a standing invitation to you to meet with us and hear our concerns in person. One of the fundamental missions of our Eastlake Council is to work cooperatively



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with the City to find solutions.

We traditionally have had candidate forums in the summer and fall during election years. We will be contact you or your representatives about attending those forums when they are scheduled.

Meanwhile, come visit us. Have a beer at the Eastlake Zoo, a classic dive bar. Have a nice dinner at Serafina, a destination dining place. Drop into Pecado Bueno for a more casual lunch or dinner. Walk our streets and see for yourself the construction and changes coming to our area. You can also view some of the historic sites in the neighborhood that have been preserved – or should be.

We are proud of our neighborhood, and we await working with whomever emerges as our new representative. Contact us at [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org). Or visit our website at [www.eastlakeseattle.org](http://www.eastlakeseattle.org).

## CRIME PREVENTION: DETER, DELAY AND DETECT

By Angela Shier

ECC and the Eastlake Merchants Association hosted a virtual community meeting with the West Precinct on January 26 to discuss property crime and safety in Eastlake. Captain Steve Strand from the West Precinct and Barb Biondo, West Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, provided information on proactive ways to prevent crime with a focus on the three Ds: Deter, Delay and Detect. Here are some of the methods they recommended for preventing theft and vandalism:

### Deter:

- Ensure your building is in good repair.
- Keep sight lines clear – visibility for entrances, alleyways to ensure that you can see pathways and entry points.
- Make sure landscaping does not obscure sightlines.
- Lighting – keep pathways, parking areas, and entry points well lit, with automated lights if possible.

The West Precinct offers free property inspection to help provide recommendations on how to better secure your home or business. More information on how to deter burglary crimes is available here: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/burglary-prevention>

### Delay:

- The most common points of entry tend to be doors, windows, utility access points and roof vents.
- Utilize Security Film to fortify glazed windows & doors.
- Layered security – locks on all doors that can be used as entry points. For example, doors from the



garage to the inside of your home should be just as secure as the front door.

- For businesses – keep valuable items hidden after hours.

**Detect:**

If possible, equip your business or home with a security system that can be heard by neighbors.

In the unfortunate event that your home or business is victim to a burglary or vandalism crime, it can be reported online (<https://www.seattle.gov/police/need-help/online-reporting#whycantireportallcrimesonline>) or by contacting the non-emergency line at: 206 625-5011. When reporting a crime, it is important to provide as much detailed information as possible.

**Helpful links:**

- Find It, Fix It mobile app: <https://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>
- Criminal trespassing information and printable signs for your business: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/community-programs/criminal-trespassing>
- Local Crime reports and trends: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/crime-dashboard>

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## SEBI'S HAS CLOSED

On December 23, 2022, Sebi's closed down their Eastlake location at the historic Anhalt Building. While they search for a new location, you can still enjoy Sebi's Polish cuisine every Friday at The Polish Home (1714 18th Ave, Seattle WA 98122). As the retail space remains vacant, we thought this would be a good time to reprint the following article, by Judy Smith, about the history of the building that ran in the Fall 2012 issue of the Eastlake News.

## THE CASTLE IN EASTLAKE

By Judy Smith

It's one of the most significant buildings in Eastlake according to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, yet it is easily overlooked, lost amidst the newer, larger buildings surrounding it.

But I remember riding in the car as a child with my parents and always wondering if the bridge we were crossing over would be the one with the castle at the end of it. Sometimes it was. And the building at the south end of the University Bridge appeared like something out of a fairy tale. As we sped by, I strained to get a good look at it. Even back then I wondered about the stories behind it.

Turns out there are a lot of them. The building at the corner of Eastlake and Fuhrman, formerly Romio's Pizza and now Borsalino's, has stories to tell of bankruptcy, illegal activity, a mysterious death, rock'n'roll legends – and those are just the things that made it into the local newspapers.

It's been known by the businesses that occupy the ground floor: Rapunzel's Tavern, Scoundrel's Lair, Romio's. It's never had a common name. The condos above it are known as the Martello.

But the real story behind this building is the man who built it or rather remodeled what was once a single family house in 1928. The builder, Frederick Anhalt, was a self-educated developer and architect who went on to build many of the castle-like apartment buildings on Capitol Hill like the well-loved ones at 730 and 750 Belmont and 1005 and 1014 E. Roy, the latter two, registered historic landmarks.

The owner of one of Anhalt's apartment buildings was so taken with his style that she interviewed him for a book, *Built by Anhalt*. In it, Anhalt describes how he came up with his designs: "I started looking around for ideas as to the style I would use," he said. "While I was doing this, I met a young girl who was selling books and I asked her to find any books she could on beautiful apartments. She came back several days later and told me that she couldn't find anything like that, all she had was a book about English castles. Well, I took one look at that book and I knew I'd



found my style of building. I went through that book and picked a window I liked here, a door there, and something else over there."

The building in Eastlake (the only Anhalt Eastlake has) is a bit of an anomaly, not brick but stucco-clad and with no courtyard, which was another popular feature of his buildings. It was also the result of a bit of a misshap on Capitol Hill.

Anahalt had taken a break from developing to get his thoughts in order, he said, so he had his crew put up the Del-Teet furniture store on Broadway, the building is still there today by the way – Broadway video. But there was such a hurry to open the furniture store that Skewes, the store manager, moved the merchandise in as soon as the plasterers left. "And that got me another job," Anhalt says. "In all the humidity of that wet plaster, everything mildewed. Skewes was fired and decided to open his own store in an old house he'd found down by the University Bridge. I must have felt a little responsible for his problem, because I agreed to remodel it for him, which wasn't something I would usually do. It's a lot easier to build a new building than to remodel an old one. Especially one that's fifty years old like that one was. I must have done a good job on it though, because it's still there today."

The building is still there, fortunately for Eastlake, but not the furniture store. Skewes-Rudolph Furniture Cor., Inc, went through a long bankruptcy in the early 1930s if the liquidations ads of the time are any indication.

According to further news reports in the Seattle Times about the building, a man was arrested for having a slot



machine there in 1935, “charged with having gambling paraphernalia and released on \$40 bail.” In 1936 “a well-known restaurant” called The Town House made the news due to a change in lease. In the 1940s floor lamps were offered for sale in the display room. In 1966, almost as a testament to the times, a tenant, Raymond Paul McCarthy, 26, was charged with 2nd degree burglary for robbing a pharmacy and taking “a variety of drugs.” He had the misfortune of being seen by police as he was running away.

Beginning in July 1967, Llahnguelhyn, a coffee and live jazz joint occupied the corner of Eastlake and Furhman.

The Short Galleries opened in October 1969 (when phone numbers were still letters as in EA3-9830, the gallery’s number) with an exhibition of seven Northwest artists. John Voorhees the art critic for the Seattle Times, gave the gallery many glowing reviews.

Then in 1975 it became Rapunzel’s and the following year the building became notorious for a fire that made the front page of the Times and took the life of an unidentified woman whose body was found in the gables. Rapunzel’s Tavern rebuilt and recovered from that to last another ten years.

In 1986 it became Scoundrel’s Lair and one of the focal points of Seattle’s emerging grunge scene. Writing about how early Seattle rock bands never really expected fame and were going to universities for their day job credentials,

*Continued on page 10*

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Charles R. Cross, former editor of *The Rocket*, notes how much things had changed in ten years. By 1996, he was writing, "With so many successful bands in the Northwest in the past decade, more aspiring rockers think of music as an actual career. A decade ago, most of the Seattle scene bands all started off thinking they were going to have day jobs instead of music careers--and education at universities played a role in that. Today, when superstardom seems ordinary, fewer bands in the area seem to have ties to the University because many young musicians expect (sometimes wrongly) that they will be able to make a living from playing music."

Cross who was writing a series of articles at the time called "Schoolhouse Rock" for the UW's alumni magazine, goes on to note, "But as time marches on, the history books remind us of a time when you could see Nirvana at the HUB for a buck, when Soundgarden was playing just up the street at the Rainbow Tavern, and when KCMU was the only station worth punching in on your car radio. It was an era of innocence when the measure of success was determined by playing a show at the Scoundrel's Lair (now a pizza place, across from the Red Robin on Eastlake, and a longtime UW hangout) to 20 of your friends and fellow students."

The building at the corner of Eastlake and Fuhrman, (it really needs a permanent name) has lost its edginess since the 1980s but hasn't physically changed much except for new windows.

"Old buildings and towns are valued because they are intrinsically beautiful or because they have a scarcity value," the Seattle Historic Preservation website reminds us. "In a world of rapid change, visible and tangible evidence of the past may also be valued for the sense of place and continuity it conveys."

Perhaps the residents living in the Martello, who are lucky enough to own a piece of this Seattle history, will consider nominating it for historic preservation, to ensure that future generations can enjoy spotting it as they drive by and wondering about its story.

*Pictured on page 8: The Anhalt Building when it was Rapunzel's.*

*Pictured below: The building when it was Borsalinos.*





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# OR SELLING

# IN 2023?

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**URBAN LIVING**





## THE LIVING GARDEN

By Isabella Yeager

Hi Eastlake! As I'm writing this, it's not technically spring yet but it feels like it to a tantalizing degree. Hellebores are up and giving joy in this mostly flowerless season, accompanied by spectacular displays of witch hazel and whiffs of sweetbox; by the time this is published we'll probably soon be surrounded by pink clouds of cherry blossoms. When the early trees are in flower, you know the new year's gardening season has truly arrived. There's a lot of sustainable spring garden work to cover in a thousand words, so I'll jump right in.

### PERENNIALS & SHRUBS

Cut back epimedium as soon as you read this if you haven't already, or you'll risk cutting off new growth. You can do this annually. Shear heaths, heathers and candytuft immediately after flowering, removing 4-6". This will keep them from becoming leggy with dead centers, as we so often see.

Perennials can be cut back now to new basal growth.

Locate the best-looking bud pair on each branch of your hydrangeas and cut to the pair ABOVE this, which will protect best buds in case of a late frost.

Make sure not to prune any clematis that are about to bloom. The same goes for spring-blooming shrubs like Forsythia; both should be pruned immediately after flowering.

Spiraea and sages can be cut back early in the year to 6" from the ground to clear them out and prevent powdery mildew. If you didn't get to this and these plants are already in full leaf, do it next February.

Plant some beautiful PNW NATIVES!! There tend to be mostly evergreens in the major nurseries, but you can find a ton of beautiful flowering natives at great places like Go Natives! Nursery in Shoreline.

### "WEEDS" & THUGS

A thick layer of arbor chips over your small weeds will do a lot to deter them without much nitpicky work on your end, and feed your soil beautifully.

If you have thug plants (morning glory, ivy, bindweed, Himalayan blackberry), fork them up and remove as much root as possible. Morning glory and ivy can regrow from roots, stems and leaves, so be sure to remove all clippings. Then cover the area with a layer of chips to make pulling much easier over time. Remove ivy from trees, as it will kill anything it clings to. As tempting as it is to use herbicides, you'll risk killing other plants in your yard as the poison seeps into the root system of your target thug and then disseminates into the roots of other beloved plants.

Lemon balm is lovely but can take over; dig out sections of it from the soft soil now to keep it from overrunning your garden. You can dry the leaves for a season's worth of delicious and beneficial lemon balm tea.

Leave dandelions be! They provide crucial nectar for bees when very little is available otherwise, and they actually only appear in your lawn to correct nutrient deficiencies. Their long taproots break up soil compaction, and when the soil composition and nutrient balance of your grass has been returned to a healthy level, the dandelions will depart from your yard like magic. Let them stay and try to enjoy their cheery faces while they do some complex work on your behalf, and feed pollinators when they need it most.

### PESTS, DISEASES & OTHER THREATS

It's time to get ahead of fungal infections in your garden! Issues from black spot to powdery mildew are caused by a particular fungal strain called Anthracnose, so it's important to sterilize your pruners/shears with rubbing alcohol as it can spread from plant to plant. Douse peonies, roses, fruit trees, Spiraea, and lilacs with the probiotic I mentioned in the Winter column: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D747, available at most nurseries. It will prevent almost all the black spots and molds that plague you.

It's SLUG SEASON and while slug pellets are effective, I implore you not to use them, as these poison pills kill the birds who eat the slugs. Horticultural wool is an incredible garden tool to be used in the prevention of slug damage: wool pellets can be sprinkled around your tender plants, and slugs will recoil from the feeling of scratchy wool on their soft bellies. As a bonus, wool acts as a natural fertilizer and water-conserving medium.

Consider picking up some beneficial nematodes from the nursery. With care taken to follow the instructions to a T, as they are living organisms, they can be applied easily via soil drench and will take out your soilborne pests at the



egg stage before they make it out of the soil to harm your plants. Pesticides will do more harm than good, killing your ladybugs and the other predator insects that tackle aphid problems. Leaving a few aphids will in turn encourage a healthy microbiome of predator insects, who will eventually balance out your garden ecosystem and leave less work for you in the end.


If you have Christmas lights still wrapped around your trees, it's important to remove them because they can kill the tree by cutting off its circulation.

Spring can bring unexpected moments of dry heat, and plants can burn before there is tree leaf cover. Keep an eye out for this and water if necessary.

**ROSES**

Now's the ideal time to put arbor chips under your roses and feed them with alfalfa, loose green tea leaves, or chicken manure. For blooms in June and to set them up with good growing structure, prune roses in February. Pruning your roses annually will ensure more flowers and less disease. Depending on whether you have tea roses, climbers, or other types, you'll want to look online for pruning guides, as they each require specific pruning styles. Ultimately, your roses can take a lot of cutting, and it's better to be aggressive with your pruning rather than allowing disease to take over.

Enjoy the sights and smells of spring in our gorgeous neighborhood. Talk to you when summer's on the horizon!




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## BIRDING IN EASTLAKE: SPRING IS UPON US *By Dave Galvin*

As I begin a third year of these columns, you will notice some repetition in my stories. Life keeps going in its seasonal cycles, and our local birds keep following the calendar. As days lengthen, birds get the signal that spring is on the way. Lengthening daylight triggers hormone release. All kinds of behaviors ensue, from bobbing heads to migrating to singing to defending territories to raising young.

Isn't it wonderful to come out of our cold, dark, wet winters into the promise of spring? I hope you'll notice that our local birds agree. American Robins stop hanging out in winter flocks, and the males pick a local perch at the tree tops to sing their heads off, signaling their territory and hoping for notice by the right female. The Robin's "cheer-up, cheerily" song is a true harbinger of spring. Lots of other male birds are doing the same, from Black-capped Chickadees who start their spring "hey, sweetie" song; to

House Finches in bright red head-and-chest plumage singing their convoluted finch song with a raspy ending; to Song Sparrows who burst into "hip, hip, hip, hurray boys, spring is here" song in every hedgerow and block of the neighborhood. Bewick's Wrens get active now after keeping a low winter profile, as do Dark-eyed Juncos with their black heads and white outer tail-feathers, who start singing their soft trill from small street trees. Even European Starlings are in their finest, pin-striped glory this time of year as they sing their own mixture of starling notes (often very confusing to this birder's ear) as well as mimic

other local sounds, from hawks to car alarms. Northern Flickers rap on wood and metal to get attention, and yell their "yakyakyakyak..." calls to attract a mate. All these species over-winter with us, and now join us in saluting brighter, warmer days.

Many birds migrate, choosing to expend energy to move seasonally to places better suited to stay alive. ("Snowbirds," we call our human equivalents who don't have to do the work of migrating yet overwinter in Palm Springs or Cabo.) Our White-crowned Sparrows arrive back in numbers in late March and early April from winters spent in California (a few over-winter here); their buzzy "more, more cheezies, please" song is another clear, although monotonous, harbinger of spring. Yellow-rumped Warblers, some of whom over-winter here, swell in numbers in April as they come back north from winter as far south as Panama; most keep moving, going all the way to the edges of the taiga in northern Alaska and Canada, an incredible journey for a creature that weighs half an ounce. Birds that rely on flying insects such as our swallows show up in late April and May, often moving on father north.

One of my local treats in May is the very short pass-through of Western Tanagers, one of my iconic Washington birds, who winter from southern Mexico to Costa Rica (nice choices!) and who then nest as far north as B.C. and the Yukon. We experience a wave of these lovely birds in mid to late May, usually only for a week or so, usually up-hill in the Eastlake neighborhood, such as near I-5, including especially the area along Lakeview Blvd. E. just uphill of the freeway, where there is a concentration of trees in the St. Mark's Greenbelt. I hear them singing their raspy "Robin-with-a-sore-throat" songs and often find twenty or more in a few trees there; but then they're gone a few days later, as they move both north into Canada and up-hill into



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and over our Cascades, where they are a dominant summer resident. These tanagers are, to me, the epitome of our vulnerable migrants who rely on habitats both here in the Northwest and Canada to nest and also appropriate habitats in transit and in their wintering forests in southern Mexico and Central America. I have witnessed them, in our winter, in tropical forests in Chiapas (southern Mexico) and Costa Rica, and each time they have helped to connect me to this continuity of life from here to there, and to its extreme vulnerability.

Enjoy the emergence of spring in our neighborhood! Let me know what you are seeing or hearing, or any questions you have about our local birds, at [galvind53@gmail.com](mailto:galvind53@gmail.com). Thanks for your continuing interest.

P.S. Isabella Yeager and I are scheming about how to turn Eastlake into the premiere neighborhood in Seattle for a more natural city environment, with more native plants, more native insects and pollinators, more diversity of life.

If this is of interest to you to join in, let us know at [isabella@flowermoongardens.com](mailto:isabella@flowermoongardens.com) or [galvind53@gmail.com](mailto:galvind53@gmail.com).

*Pictured on page 14: Western Tanager by Larry Hubbell. The face will be bright red and the body mostly bright yellow, with black-and-white wings — clearly “tropical” colors for a Northwest-nesting bird.*

*Pictured below: Photo of an American Robin, used with permission from Larry Hubbell.*

## BIRD WALK WITH DAVE ON APRIL 8TH

Two free walks on April 8th, 2023: 9 and 11 a.m. Join local birder Dave Galvin for one of two bird walks on the morning of Saturday, April 8, 2023.

Dave will lead a walk starting at 9 a.m., and other starting at 11 a.m., each following a short circle from TOPS school/ Rogers Playground down to the lake shore near E. Roanoke, then back uphill via E. Louisa St. Each walk will end back at Eastlake Ave. E, with encouragement for participants to partake in local coffee shops along the Ave.

For both time slots, meet at the middle of Franklin Ave. E. in front of TOPS school. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them or access from a friend.



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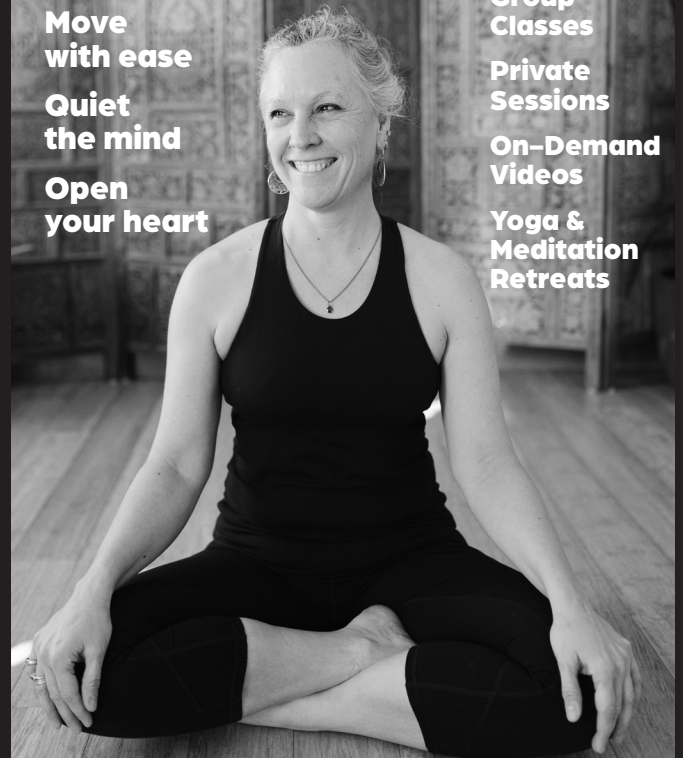
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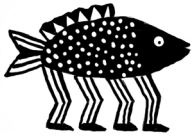
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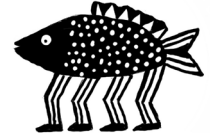
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# GET INVOLVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Eastlake has benefited through the years from the energy and dedication of neighbors who volunteer to make this a great place to live. Central to many efforts is The Eastlake Community Council. ECC, organized in 1971, has focused the energies of volunteers into a wide variety of projects and activities. Volunteers have organized a new website at [eastlakeseattle.org](http://eastlakeseattle.org) and added content related to neighborhood activities and land development plans; hosted developer meetings; organized and directed park clean ups and litter patrols; and sponsored neighborhood activities such as the Sounds of Summer concert.

The Council's Board has excellent working relationships with various City officials. When neighbors raise issues or concerns, we can check in with our contacts or refer neighbors to a helpful staffer. The Council is also a resource for neighbors who have an idea for a neighborhood improvement project or fun activity, potentially offering both volunteer and financial support. This past year, the Board advocated for the Eastlake neighborhood to remain together as the City Council Districts were redrawn. In addition, the Board has been regularly involved in discussions with SDOT regarding the RR-J line and most recently has engaged with the Cascade Bicycle Club about the project.

All ECC Board members are volunteers, some with extensive business or community experience and some with no prior board experience. ECC Board service is an excellent learning opportunity in a small organization as well as being an easy way to get to know some of your neighbors. Past Board members have been great resources and have helped acclimate new Board members.

The Council will be looking for a few new Board members in the Fall. If you're curious about the Board and

its work and might consider joining it, contact us at [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org), and a Board member will be in touch. Watch for information about the nominating process in the June issue of the Eastlake News.

## ONE SEATTLE DAY OF SERVICE: MAY 20, 9AM-2PM

Eastlake will be supporting Mayor Harrell's One Seattle Day of Service on Saturday May 20. This will include our usual Lake Union shoreline clean up starting at 9 AM in front of Lake Union Dry Dock. Please bring tools and gloves.

Harmon Rogers will once again lead us in the effort. We will clean up the vegetation along the lake front and pick up trash. We encourage all of Eastlake to pick up trash near their homes and businesses as well as clean up median strips, curb areas or parks near them.

If you accumulate more refuse than will fit in your bins, send us an email [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org) and tell us the location of the curb you have left it on.

## WANT TO HELP PLAN A PARTY?

ECC has traditionally held two annual neighborhood gatherings in local restaurants, and we think it's time to do it again this spring. It's a simple event, and it needs an organizer. If that's up your alley, let us know at [info@eastlakeseattle.org](mailto:info@eastlakeseattle.org), and we'll get you started.

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The ECC is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator. We need a volunteer to help connect people with each other, to step in and organize our volunteers, find out their interests and connect them with other people or groups who share a similar interest. It wouldn't be too time consuming and it is a great way to help the neighborhood.

## SIGN UP & JOIN VIA MAIL

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

**We invite you to check off one or more interest(s) below & complete the form to the right.**

- Events and fundraising
- Help with website, database, 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
- Newsletter content/production
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