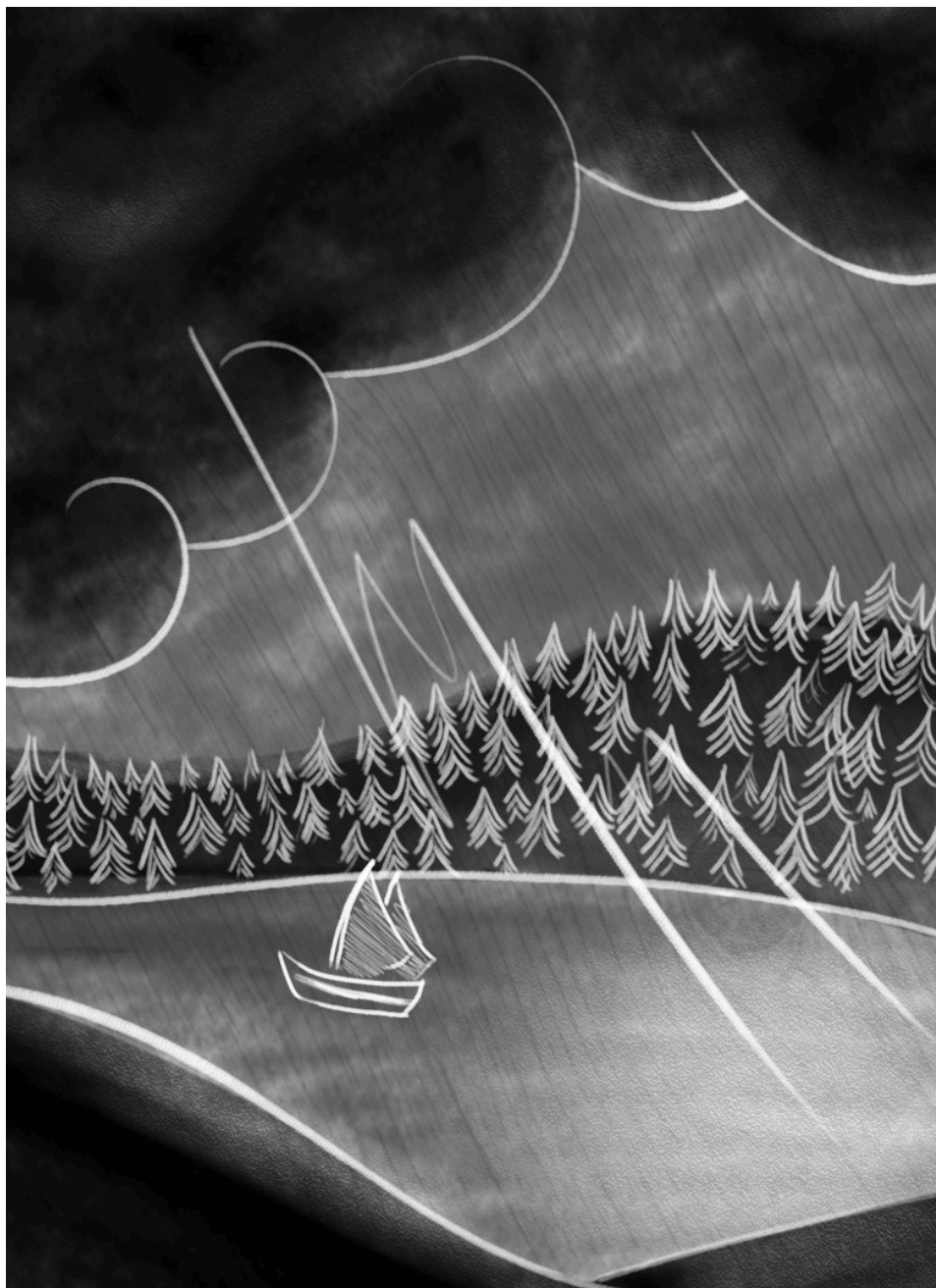




Winter 2023

THE EASTLAKE NEWS



Faux wood carving by Cormack Baldwin to celebrate the rare fall thunderstorm.

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SEE INSIDE FOR NEWS, EVENTS AND MORE!

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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 Message

By Shane Hope

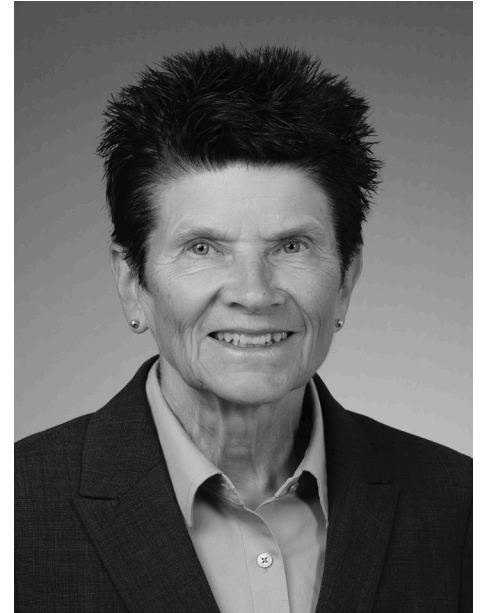
Eastlake is a community with an array of great residents, workers, and businesses. Even with different ideas about how to do so, we all want to protect or enhance the environmental quality, walkability, and livability of our neighborhood.

As the new president of the Eastlake Community Council (ECC), I look forward to working with you to help each other learn about local issues and opportunities, enjoy neighborhood activities, and have a voice on key topics. With so many different perspectives—and limited resources—we will need to prioritize what can be accomplished in the next two years. I hope you will share your ideas and lead or participate in ECC activities.

You may want to learn more about ECC from our website: <https://www.eastlakeseattle.org/>. Even better, if you are not already signed up to be a member or friend of ECC, please use the website (the “Join/Donate/Volunteer” button, QR code at bottom of this message) to sign up and let us know your interests and talents. You can make a difference!


Meanwhile, the ECC Board has started planning ahead for 2024 and 2025. We will be sharing information via the website, an electronic newsletter, and social media about how you can engage in the process. Feel free to talk with any Board member too. Your schedule is busy, no doubt, but I hope you will participate as best you can.

Seattle is a city of neighborhoods. In Eastlake, we are fortunate to have the experience of being part of a large metropolitan area and, also, members of a “close-in” neighborhood. Our community has homes of all types, local businesses, schools, parks, and more. Together, we have a history,



a sense of “here and now”, and a hopeful future. As 2023 passes and we move on to a new year, let’s appreciate each other and continue helping our neighborhood be a great place in a thriving city.



 Find and “Like” Eastlake Community Council to stay up to date on all the latest ECC news!



Visit the ECC website!



Learn how to get involved!

Be Safe with Lithium-Ion Batteries

By Shane Hope

Fires related to lithium-ion batteries have required the Seattle Fire Department to respond at least 36 times this year, according to an announcement from the Department.

Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries are commonly used in homes, businesses, and public places to charge devices such as phones, laptop computers, and tablets. They are also used to charge e-scooters and e-bikes; in fact, transportation equipment comprises 40% of this year's lithium-ion battery fires in Seattle.

Used properly, such batteries are small, convenient, and efficient. But used incorrectly, they can overheat, catch fire, or explode—also leading to the spread of fire and to the release of toxic gases.

The Seattle Fire Department has provided these safety tips:

- Only use chargers and cables that are compatible with the device (for example, they came with it from the manufacturer);
- Do not charge a device while sleeping;
- Do not charge a device under pillows or bedding or atop flammable surfaces, such as a couch;
- Do not continue to charge a battery once it is fully charged;
- Keep batteries at room temperature and away from heat sources or direct sunlight;
- Do not charge near your primary exit—you will need a route to escape should the battery catch fire;
- Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor or change in color;
- Purchase batteries and devices that have been certified by UL or another independent safety testing agency.

If you do observe a battery-related fire, the Seattle Fire Department reminds us:

- Lithium-ion battery fires can start and spread quickly. They produce toxic gases and it's safest to get away. Do not try to extinguish them on your own.
- If a device begins to hiss and start a fire inside a building, immediately leave the area and (if inside a building) close the door as you exit the room. Call 911.

To see the full announcement from the Seattle Fire Department or a video showing how such lithium-ion fires can spread, see: <https://fireline.seattle.gov/2023/10/26/lithium-ion-battery-fire-safety-2/>.

gov/2023/10/26/lithium-ion-battery-fire-safety-2/.



Steward Needed for the Colonnade Off-Leash Area

The Steward Coordinator/COLA Project Liaison, Ken Wright, is looking for a steward for The Colonnade Off-leash area. The Colonnade is located under I5 at 1701 Lakeview Blvd. E. The fenced, off-leash area is tiered and has a crushed gravel surface that was recently redone and a water source at the north end. The steward will work with Ken and COLA to make sure the area is maintained by visiting frequently and submitting work requests when necessary.

This is a great position for someone who is a dog owner who lives near the area and wants to contribute to the community.

Please send inquiries to info@seattlecola.org. Ken can send you the full job description and answer any questions.

Contribute to The Eastlake News


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.

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. Delivering The Eastlake News is the perfect way to stroll the neighborhood and be involved in the community all at the same time!





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Thank You, City Councilman Alex Pedersen

By Detra Segar

Eastlake’s relationship with the City of Seattle has often been challenging. Over the years, Eastlake Ave has frequently been seen as a corridor between the University District and high-tech South Lake Union vs the neighborhood that we are.

When Alex Pedersen was elected to the District 4 Council position the corridor view went away. Pedersen saw us as a neighborhood, a funky part of Seattle that included houseboats, apartments, single-family homes with a growing number of townhouses, condos and apartments. He recognized the complexity of Fairview Ave as a mix of commercial, research and residential.

Pedersen decided not to run again in the 2023 election. With redistricting, Eastlake was moved to District 3, so the neighborhood would have had a new councilmember regardless of the election. Joy Hollingsworth, who has attended several events in Eastlake, and went to school at TOPS, has been elected as the new City councilmember who will represent Eastlake as well as Capitol Hill and the Central Area.

During her campaign stops, Councilmember Hollingsworth was supportive of our position as a neighborhood.

Eastlake has had a productive working relationship with Pedersen even before he ran for the council. He attended Eastlake meetings and was aware of issues that concerned the community.


Once elected to the City Council, there was little time lost before our interests were in sync. Shortly after taking his seat, he was quick to see issues that affected the community.

The Ride the Ducks company had purchased land adjacent to Terry Pettus Park along Fairview Avenue East and planned to construct a ramp for its amphibian vessels to come and go from Lake Union. When the Ducks company was forced to sell the land after a horrific accident, the community was quick to see the potential for the land to be added to the park. Pedersen supported that idea and the City purchased the land, which is now part of a Parks Department project to expand and improve the park. The project is scheduled to begin in 2024.

Pedersen was a key advocate for the project.

To say that he has been a partner to Eastlake would be an understatement.

He has been more like a resident with a keen sense of what makes our neighborhood work. Heading up transportation, he identified the importance of bridges




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to Seattle and was clear about the need for the City to evaluate the condition of all bridges, with Eastlake’s aging University Bridge on that list. We all know its importance to Eastlake.

He guided our work on the East Howe Steps Plaza project, helping us complete a long-term plan to use public right of way for a small park. It is the beginning of the stair climb to Capitol Hill and added another great public space to the neighborhood—while saving several large trees and forging a great public/private partnership.

There are numerous other projects still being considered that he has helped us navigate. He also always has been a supporter of the small businesses that make Eastlake unique. He has been the kind of supportive city councilman that every community needs.

Pedersen always wanted to get things done, so he often partnered with other Council members, as well as the mayor to achieve those goals. He has challenged budgets that are not asking for results and each organization that is not living up to its mission. He has made public safety a priority, asking all of us to participate.

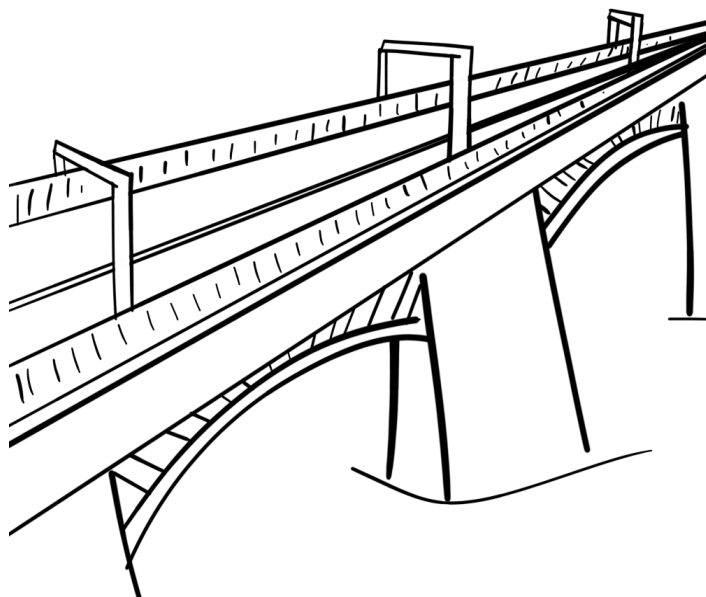
His monthly emails, with details on what the City Council was considering, as well as items where he sought constituent feedback, are the best in the City.

He has showed up for Eastlake public meetings and events. He and his staff have always been responsive.

I think I speak for many when I say that we are sorry he is leaving the City Council and hope that his contribution to the well-being of Seattle has not ended. He leaves a legacy of service, compassion and effectiveness.

In times when criticism seems to be the prevailing message, we have been proud to call Alex Pedersen our City Councilman.

Thank you, Councilman Pedersen.



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elements. Beyond digital design, they're hoping to do more all under the ethos of "weird stuff with books." Maybe an anthology printed on seed paper so stories can be planted, or a hardcover with hidden pockets for extra documents? Another cafe discussion may just be in order.

Magazine stories and book orders come from across the world, but the Archives want to root themselves in community here. They're planning for events throughout Seattle, including the Seattle GeekCraft Expo in late November. Beyond that, though, they're looking into pop-up events closer to home. Cafes, parks, and more may soon be visited by the Archives.

You can reach Archive of the Odd at archiveoftheodd@gmail.com, or check out their books and free-to-read stories at archiveoftheodd.com.

Found Footage, Indie Publishing, and Life on Eastlake for Archive of the Odd

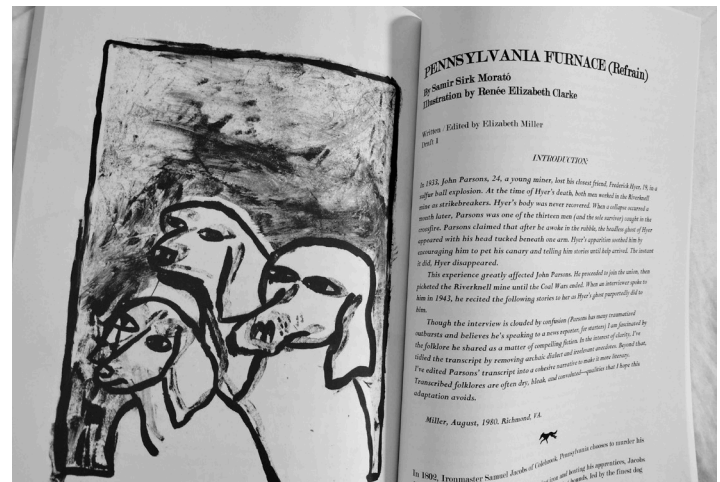
By Cormack Baldwin

It's not every day that you stumble upon a multi-dimensional archive pulling documents from disparate universes, but if you're in Eastlake, you may do just that.

Unfortunately, Archive of the Odd doesn't offer tours of alternate universes—yet. But as a small publisher based out of Franklin Avenue, they're hoping to expand their readership and introduce more people to the medium of found fiction. Like found footage, found fiction uses a "non-fiction" format (e.g. letters, social media, reviews, product support guides, etc.) to tell a story. In their anthology magazine, Archive of the Odd has published everything from a birdwatcher's notebook where the birds keep going missing to the transcripts of an AI program rebelling against its trainer. Every story is formatted to look like an archival document, and accompanied with full illustrations.

The editors, Cormack and EV, started the press before moving to Eastlake in order for Cormack to attend a graduate program at UW. Final touches of the second magazine issue were put together while trundling up from Oregon in a U-Haul. Walks by the lake, publishing discussions at cafes, and trips to the little free libraries of the neighborhood soon became part of the writing and publishing process. Now, they have three anthology magazine issues published, as well as their first horror novella, *Revenge Arc* by Cat Voleur.

Every detail is important when putting together an "archival" document. A single fictional website often has three or four versions with designs based on the tone of the story and document and how it looks next to other



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A New Year in Eastlake

By Detra Segar

This time of the year, after the gifts have been opened and the decorations put away, we turn our thoughts to resolutions. The gym memberships, dietary changes, anticipated long walks and books we intend to read. We annually launch our “improvements” for a new year.

What about adding an Eastlake resolution for 2024—good deeds, lifted spirits and random acts of kindness?

We have a history of good deeds. There are huge projects that have brought the community together over the years and smaller ones like annual shoreline cleanups and movie/music evenings.

We already live in a community that cares about coming together. All of us benefit from the efforts of residents who carry a trash bag and pick up when they go for a walk. The graffiti team, on their own, removing the graffiti that regularly appears. Others spending time with pruning shears or digging up invasive plants on our shoreline and curbs. One could call them our stealth heroes. They are definitely doing good deeds.

We see neighbors that continued to help others well after the initial pandemic flurry. Eastlake Social Club resolves lost pets and missing packages regularly. I am pretty sure there are more needs out there if we look closely.

With busy lives and many commitments, it is not always possible to keep all of those good intentions in a new year. Our first thoughts are usually more personal improvement vs community, but what if more of us found just a couple of things that were community focused to do regularly. There are lots of places to check for needs. You could ask a neighbor, a business, or check in with ECC.

This year we find ourselves in a unique period of time. Community, or lack thereof, is being discussed a great deal. Books have been written and lectures given about the need to build community and bridge gaps as the negatives seem to amplify. What could each of us do that might provide more positives? We know that working together has health benefits and can be fun as well as benefit the community.

As 2024 unfolds, consider doing one good deed a month in Eastlake. Post it on Eastlake Social or the ECC Facebook page or tell your neighbor. In the new year, a snowfall or the first buds of Spring will lift everyone’s spirits. Let’s spread good spirits and good deeds throughout 2024 and become an even more wonderful neighborhood than we already are.



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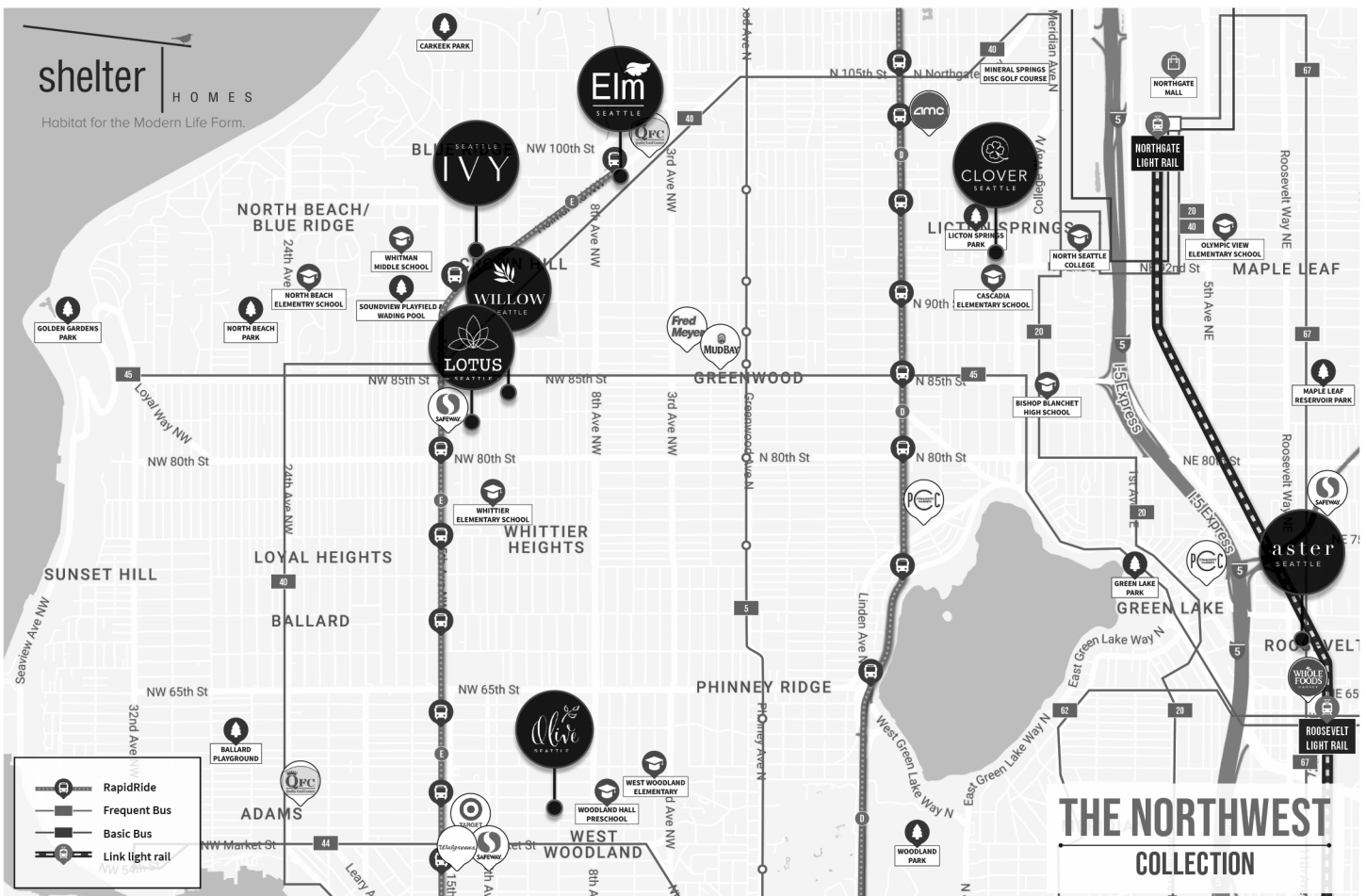
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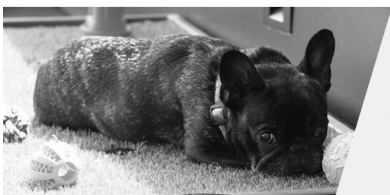
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P-Patches Celebrate 50 Years

By Lucy Mohl

On the last silky night of summer in late September, people all over the city gathered to celebrate the golden anniversary of Seattle's enduring P-Patch program. What began with the transformation of the Picardo farm in Wedgewood in 1973 has spread as an idea over 50 years to become 91 community gardens across all parts of the city, and every plot of land comes with its own self-seeded story.

Eastlake's began in 1980, when a student at the UW put out a call in the Eastlake News to start a P-Patch and ten local families answered. This was during a period when there were still parts of Seattle land left in development limbo, and the group was granted access to a patch of overgrowth along the Shelby Street right-of-way (site of today's Fairview Park).

On Valentine's Day 1981, the group began working at the empty lot with no money to have it cleared. Wrestling 18 organic garden beds out of walls of blackberry vines and mountains of discarded junk was one challenge; wrestling with developers and, at the time, the city was another. Due to developer plans and city requirements, the garden faced displacement but the community responded in force, launching a campaign to have the city buy adjacent properties and create a park, including the P-Patch.

(A grassroots effort in the truest sense, the gardens were almost x'd out of city growth plans in the mid-80s, until active support city-wide led to — let's just go for all the metaphors — permanently rooting the P-Patch program into every neighborhood).

With Fairview Park finally secured, 8 more years' worth of physical work went into transplanting Eastlake's P-Patch to its current location in 1998. Today, you'll find 47 upper and lower beds, a winding walkway through extended terraces and fruit trees, an active apiary and a "Giving Garden," which along with donations from gardeners produced over 550 pounds of fresh produce for the University Food Bank this season.

"Sharing is the ethic of the P-Patch program," says Barb Donnette, one of the original P-Patch gardeners and a leader for the many gardeners who've followed since. As she notes, the place is there for everyone and is one of the biggest park spaces in the neighborhood: "Everybody is welcome to walk through at any time — contact with nature is so important."

This is a season to support the Eastlake P-Patch: donations and contributions of sweat equity are currently being sought to help with design and construction of a new set of terraces for native plants to maintain the hillside, and to assist the leadership in future seasons.

Donations are tax deductible through
<https://www.grownorthwest.org/>

For more information about the P-Patch program:
<https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/p-patch-gardening>



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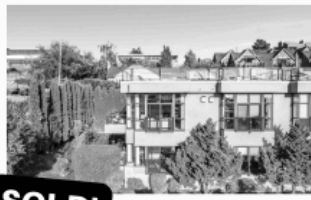
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University District Food Bank Supports Our Community

By Margaret Sanders

From grocery bags to baby food, University Food Bank needs your help!

Many people are still struggling to pay for food and other basic needs. A food donation from you can help. Here are some nearby opportunities to do that.

The UDistrict Food Bank has been helping families with food for nearly four decades, including families in Eastlake. It is currently serving more than 1300 different families. Two-thirds of these customers have at least one person employed full-time and use the Food Bank to save money for other necessities.

On your next shopping trip, why not pick up an extra package of foods your family enjoys? If Pete's on Fairview Avenue is one of your shopping places, it's easy to donate in the barrel on site. There's also a barrel in the QFC at University Village.

Dropping a bag of groceries at the Food Bank is easy — just pull into their driveway at 5017 Roosevelt Way NE (no parking in the bike lane). Check the drop-off hours as they vary on Monday - Saturday. <https://www.udistrictfoodbank.org/donate/food/>

And it's not just canned food that is welcome at the Food Bank; they also appreciate fresh produce, dried spices and herbs, toiletries, egg cartons, sturdy paper shopping bags, and, of course, CASH. For more suggestions, visit their website. UDistrictfoodbank.org

If you live in a multi-family building, consider holding a food drive any time of the year. Use the simple online application form at <https://www.udistrictfoodbank.org/involved/food-drive/>

Questions? Contact Eric at eric@udistrictfoodbank.org



Grand Central Bakery is Moving!

By Cormack Baldwin

Residents of Eastlake will find a familiar storefront in a new location, with Grand Central opening in a new location not far from 1616 Eastlake Ave E, where they've served baked goods since 2005. Their new location at 198 E. Blaine St has all the same great bakery items in a newly remodeled building, complete with a mural by artist Angelina Villalobos Soto (onesevennine), whose colorful murals have also adorned buildings such as Climate Pledge Arena and the Frye Museum. Now, Eastlake will have its own painting to pay tribute to the natural wonders of the area, as well as the spirit of Seattle.

The move may not be far, but it has been a long time coming. The landlords of the initial building reached out several years ago, offering a space in the new building. Getting a new space up and ready has required some time, from designing the new layout to preparing the kitchen for full capacity now that the bakery has switched fully to the new location. However, the building is now officially open to the public and ready to serve customers the artisanal bread Eastlake has been treated to for fifteen years. (Construction around the area is unrelated, and is part of a city infrastructure project.)

While Grand Central Bakery has multiple retail and bakery locations throughout Seattle and Portland, the old building will not be kept on by the bakery in any capacity. However, the kitchen-ready location with its perfectly central location for the neighborhood is certain to attract more wonderful businesses to Eastlake.



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Eastlake Remains Busy Construction Area

By Steve Dunphy

Franklin Avenue East and East Newton Street are largely a no-parking zone during the day as two townhouse projects have broken ground and begun construction. They are part of Eastlake’s continuing attraction as a top area for new housing and retail buildings.

The **2012 Franklin Avenue East** project by Confluence Development will construct two new 3-story residential town-house buildings containing six dwelling units and parking spots for six vehicles. The units will be from 1,500 to 1,850 square feet with parking access via the alley between Franklin and Boylston Avenue East.

At **1924 Franklin Ave. E.**, two new row houses will be added behind an existing house, which will also be converted into a row house.

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, several other large projects are nearing completion, both slowed by the pandemic and the strike by cement workers.

The large apartment building at **2210 Eastlake Ave. E.** no longer has fences up around the project, indicating that it is near completion. It will have 58 apartments and a few efficiency apartments with street level retail. No parking, none required – Eastlake continues to protest that ordinance, which makes no sense in dense Eastlake.

Eastlake’s largest project to date, the huge Washington Holdings complex at **2517 Eastlake Ave. E.**, is set to be completed in early 2024. It is a 207-unit building with ground floor retail planned. Mammoth reportedly will return with its sandwiches and that great lineup of beers on tap.

According to the Daily Journal of Commerce, the complex will feature a mix of one- and two-bedroom units and offer high-end appliances, quartz countertops and shaker-style cabinets. It will also offer underground parking with EV charging stations. Resident amenities will include a rooftop deck, media lounge, fitness center and bike storage.

Additionally, the project is being built with sustainability in mind and is pursuing Living Building Challenge 3.1 Certification. It will be completely powered by solar panels and has many green features, including a rooftop beehive.

What’s happening at the former Bank of America branch on Eastlake at Garfield? The Journal of Commerce says there’s a plan from Ethan Stowell Restaurants to open a third location for its popular Victor Tavern at **1600 Eastlake.**

“The 21-year-old building isn’t large, with some 4,152 square feet. New outdoor seating will be added on the quieter east side of the building; that will undergo a gut

renovation. No general contractor is indicated at this time, and Ethan Stowell Restaurants didn't respond to a DJC query," the paper said. But looks like things are happening there.

Jules James says it's a game-changer. "It will attract social life south like Bogey's in the old days. I suspect it also will capture some of the old Eastlake Bar and Grill crowd. Good addition. A better 'addition' is the Grand Central Bakery moving across the street. That leaves a big retail hole that Alexandria REIT most certainly will fill with something to complement the tavern and Grand Central. It's all Alexandria REIT property. They have a plan."

Alexandria's building up the hill on Eastlake also looks like it is winding down construction. It's the interesting building you can see from the southbound Freeway with one floor completely open.

At **2240 Eastlake Ave.** a new project, dubbed Sola Apartments is in the final planning stages. The project is a 71-unit, 6-story market rate multi-family project. The apartments will sit above a small retail complex and will include several levels of below grade parking. The featured amenity will be two roof-top solariums adjacent to outdoor decks that will have unimpeded views of Seattle and Lake Union. Jensen Design Architects said Construction is expected to begin early 2024.

Farther up Eastlake to the north at **2947 Eastlake Ave. E**, the fencing around the old Eastlake Bar & Grill site indicates more action there in 2024.

At **3150 Fairview Ave. E**, a new apartment complex is nearing completion, Flow Eastlake by Eastlake RePartners, The complex will allow easy beach access to Lake Union, just across the street, and has a new public stair climb between Fairview and Eastlake Ave.

There are many other construction projects in the Eastlake area – check the Eastlake Community Council's webpage for updates on existing projects and new ones that are sure to crop up.
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Birding in Eastlake: Winter is Waterfowl Season

By Dave Galvin

Like water off a duck's back, most birds don't seem to mind the rain (unless it's a real downpour). They go about their business wearing their suit of mostly waterproof feathers, preening them regularly to both keep them neatly aligned and to add waterproofing oil from a gland near their tail. Land birds tend to seek shelter under tree limbs during hard rains and overnight, while our waterfowl don't seem to care regardless of the rain. I've found Anna's Hummingbirds sleeping under my houseboat during cold nights, finding shelter from the wind and maybe some warmth from leaks in my 100+ year old floors.

It is that season, cold and dark as well as wet. Birds that require foods not readily available in the winter are programmed to migrate south, usually triggered by day length or the angle of the sun. Our swallows, for example, eat flying insects that are nonexistent here in winter, so they navigate all the way to Central and even South America to maintain access to the right foods. We also notice migrants who nest farther north or east or in the mountains, as they return to our area in winter for its lack of ice and snow (most of the time) and unfrozen fresh water. Varied Thrushes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets come down from the mountains to hang out in the lowlands. Many waterfowl, from Trumpeter Swans to Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, Scaups, and other diving birds arrive in November to spend winter with us, where the lake doesn't freeze and where small fish are abundant. Double-crested Cormorants, American Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes return from eastern Washington for the winter. Come April they all disappear to find their best nesting places elsewhere, but for now we are graced with an abundance of wintering birds in Eastlake and nearby waters.

Our land birds tend to organize into flocks this time of year. We see dozens of American Robins in flocks searching for berries and other fruits on trees throughout the neighborhood. On our late fall bird walk, two sharp-eyed neighbors saw our first documented Varied Thrush among the Robin flock on Fairview, eating berries off the hawthorn street trees. These "mountain robins" hang out in the lowlands through the winter, preferring more dense tree cover than Eastlake offers, yet this one was lured into more open areas to hang with its robin cousins. Other small birds seek protection and help finding food via mixed species flocks. We see Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Downy Woodpeckers often traveling together through shrubs and tree branches searching for food while keeping watch for predators.

Black-capped Chickadees, House Finches, House Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos will be regulars at your seed feeders. Try to keep feeders clean so they don't grow mold or create ideal conditions for Salmonella, which can be fatal to many birds. Suet feeders will attract Downy Woodpeckers, chickadees and European Starlings. If you put out hummingbird feeders, be sure to clean them at least weekly through the winter and put in new sugar water (4:1 ratio); if you let the sugar water sit too long in the feeder, it can mold and cause a fatal tongue swelling in our wintering hummers.

Speaking of hummers, the resident male Anna's Hummingbirds have set up their territories throughout the neighborhood. The males often perch at a high point of shrub or short tree 20 feet above the ground, singing squeakily, chasing off roaming males, and doing their cool J-dives to both declare their spot on the planet as well as to attract females. If a female decides this guy is among the fittest, they mate. Afterwards, he stays on site to keep doing his J-dives, and she goes off to do the rest of the work: she builds a tiny nest out of spider webs and lichens, lays two eggs the size of jelly beans, broods the eggs and hatchlings, and feeds the young until they fledge, all without help from dad. Anna's Hummingbirds are among the first birds to nest in the new year, often producing their first fledglings by March, after which the females often re-mate for a second clutch in the spring. It's a lot of work for these busy moms.

I offer a free bird walk on the first Thursday of each month through the winter at Lake Union Park near MOHAI, from 9 to 10 a.m., then coffee at MOHAI's café. We meet at the farthest SW corner of the lake. It's a good opportunity to see waterfowl up close, rain or shine. I also help Larry Hubbell with a bird walk on the first Sunday of each month at the Arboretum, from **8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**, meeting at the Birch parking lot just north of the Japanese Garden. I hope you can join me for one or more of these nearby walks. And I hope that you will let me know what you are seeing, as well as any questions you have, at galvind53@gmail.com. Thanks for your ongoing interest in our local birds!



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