Rowing club must comply with regulations

The City Department of Construction and Land Use (DCLU) upheld its Feb. 3 Notice of Violation issued to Lake Union Crew for not obtaining land use permits and environmental approvals required for the rowing club’s use and structures, and to meet applicable development standards.

The NOV was issued by DCLU in response to complaints from the Eastlake Community Council, the Floating Homes Association, the 3100 Fairview Condominium Owners’ Association and others in the neighborhood. Lake Union Crew requested a review of the NOV, claiming the rowing club did not have to obtain land use permits and meet development standards because the two structures were “vessels” and not subject to regulation. DCLU disagreed, and Lake Union Crew has now appealed the decision to King County Superior Court.

The rowing club also must contend with federal agencies which have jurisdiction. The United States Army Corps of Engineers stated in its April 1 letter to Lake Union Crew that the rowing club’s development was “in violation of Federal law” and that “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers this [Lake Union Crew] facility to be structures not vessels.” The Corps directed Lake Union Crew to do no further work in the water.

The United States Coast Guard also gave a preliminary assessment of the rowing club facility. In a March 25 letter the Coast Guard indicated that the club’s structures had the characteristics of “permanently moored vessels,” considered by the Coast Guard to be “substantially land vessels ... subject to applicable city, county and state requirements for buildings.” The only way the structures could be considered vessels would be if they complied with the same construction, equipment and operation standards that apply to the Washington State Ferries.

Meanwhile, Lake Union Crew continues to operate its rowing club and to do work on the structures. Lake Union Crew intends to give rowing lessons, rent shells, and hold banquets and parties on its structures.

Travel Experts is one of the many businesses that is helping write the neighborhood plan. From left to right, agent Rena Varon, owners Terry and Rick Esposito and agent Cheryl Wiederspohn.
I-5 maintenance is behind schedule

Repainting the I-5 ship canal bridge is more complicated than it used to be. To protect the lake and human health, a temporary structure is built to contain residue; moving it can only be done when the express lanes are closed.

The out-of-state contractor is way behind schedule, and will have to do a lot more work at night—just when we need to open our windows for ventilation and good weather.

The Washington State Department of Transportation should change how it writes contracts to discourage this unfortunate situation.

WSDOT also apparently did not consider, while the contractor is up there, installing the sound-absorbing panels that its consultants say would dramatically reduce noise.

To sound off about nighttime construction noise, call 440-4490.

To work toward a quieter neighborhood, call Neighborhoods Opposed to Interstate Sound Exposure (NOISE) at 320-9847.

Coming Soon

9 Condominium Homes For Sale in Eastlake

2017 Eastlake Avenue E.
Eastlake E.J. Plaza
Condominiums

Prices starting at $168,000

All condominiums are 2 bedroom / 2 baths
Excellent views of Lake Union, City, and Mountains
Contemporary interiors with marble and tile
Garage Parking and Storage
Decks / Patios
All appliances
Gas Fireplaces

For additional information, please call:
Kevin McKeigue 995-7246
Bill Lemcke 955-9955
Michael Bill 660-7488

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate/ N.W. / Eastlake Office

Send stories, letters and ideas in care of the Eastlake News to: 117 East Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102, Or call Kathy Tucker at 860-5934.
Seward School construction starts in May

Construction costs exceed estimate

High construction bids are not expected to delay the 14-month construction project for the expansion and renovation of Seward School, which is scheduled to begin this May.

March 31 was the deadline for submitting construction bids, and the lowest contractor bid came in at $13.75 million—nearly $2 million over the estimated $12 million project budget.

The cost of sheet metal and mechanical work, carpentry, new windows, historic landmark preservation and working on the constrained site all contributed to the higher-than-estimated bids. The project budget and bids do not include the Franklin Avenue green street improvements. School District officials are still deciding how to proceed in light of the high bids.

When construction work begins, the School District and contractor will have to comply with permit conditions that were imposed to mitigate construction-related impacts, including:

- 20-25 parking spaces for construction workers must be provided, either on-site or in remote parking lots with shuttle busses.
- Construction workers cannot park on the street in the area bounded by I-5, Eastlake, Lynn and Hamlin streets.
- Construction vehicles cannot use the cobblestone streets.
- Neighbors can report school construction problems to 298-7645 (a 24-hour phone tree for non-emergency problems) or 298-7707 (for emergencies).
- A fenced, pedestrian connection must be provided between Louisa and Roanoke streets.
- Numerous street trees must be preserved and protected during construction.
- 72-hour advance notice of street closures must be provided to residents in the vicinity of the school.

The existing playscape equipment will be replaced during the construction period, and will be temporarily located at the south end of Franklin or in Rogers Playfield until its permanent site in front of the 1893 building is ready. Efforts are being made to minimize the amount of time that the playscape will not be available to the neighborhood.

For more information about Seward School or a copy of the construction permit conditions, call Carol Eychaner (324-1716).
Neighborhood schooling

Seward is only the largest and oldest of Eastlake's schools. Many other educational opportunities are also available in our neighborhood.

Pima Medical Institute (322-6100) has 400 students attending its two-year degree programs for medical lab, x-ray, and ophthalmic technicians; and eight-month certificate programs for dental, medical, and pharmacy veterinary assistants. ...

The Eastlake branch of United Indians of All Tribes (325-0070) enrolls more than a thousand students a year in its re-entry school for dropouts, middle college program, and computer classes for youth and adults. ...

Educational Clinics, Inc. (325-4606), prepares students to return to public school or go to work; state funds allow tuition to be free for those who have missed school for more than a month. ...

The MacIntosh Downtown Business Users Group (Eastlake-based and including many non-business users) offers a range of workshops and mutual assistance. ...

Childhaven (464-3925), whose Eastlake facility serves more than 50 preschoolers daily, is a nursery and therapy center for abused, drug-affected, or neglected children and for those who families are in crisis; it also offers parent support and instruction. ...

The Early Music Guild (325-7066) offers an ever-changing set of workshops on instruments and musical styles. ...

The American Sign Language Interpreting School (860-3503) offers a four-year curriculum on sign language and Deaf culture. ...

Classes in boating are provided by Pocock Rowing Center (328-0778), Windworks (720-9867), and the Center for Wooden Boats (382-2628), which also teaches boatbuilding. ...

Patrick's Fly Shop (325-8988), founded in 1946, offers classes in fly-tying and rod-building. ...

Seattle Caviar Company (323-3005) offers classes in its specialty. ...

Washington Employers, Inc. (329-1120) annually conducts more than 300 small-group courses and workshops on supervision, human resources, finance, workplace skills, safety, environmental management, and the like. ...

The five labor unions headquartered in Eastlake also offer various kinds of training to their members. ...

Washington State Employees Credit Union (322-9349) gives workshops on personal finance, home and auto purchasing, and other topics. ...

Lakeside-Milam Recovery Center (1100 Eastlake Avenue, 341-1276) has a bulletin board listing nearby self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Marijuana Anonymous, etc. ...

If your educational program isn't mentioned here, send info to Chris Leman c/o Eastlake News, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.
Do or die for Allison crossing

Calls and letters are urgently needed to unfreeze the neighborhood funds Eastlake won for a pedestrian half-signal across Eastlake Avenue at Allison Street.

The Seattle Transportation Department is ignoring votes by the Lake Union District Council (Wallingford, Fremont, Cascade, and Eastlake), claiming that there is not enough pedestrian traffic to justify this safety improvement. But residents, employees, customers, bus riders, and park users need protection at this dangerous intersection, where freeway noise makes it impossible to hear approaching cars.

Unless we act now, the funds will disappear and be spent elsewhere in the City.

Write now, especially to Mayor Paul Schell and Councilmembers Richard Conlin, Nick Licata, Peter Steinbrueck and Martha Choe; as well as to Councilmembers Sue Donaldson, Tina Podlodowski, Margaret Pageler, Jan Drago, and Richard Mclver. Address is 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle 98104. In writing, emphasize that the signal has been recommended since 1994 in neighborhood planning; and be specific about dangerous situations there.

Questions: call Debbie Williams, 860-7328.

Floating Home Insurance

FINALLY:
A BETTER FLOATING HOME INSURANCE POLICY.

It has taken 22 years and the backing of the oldest marine insurance company in North America to get it right... and to get it priced right too!

1. Very competitive rates, far superior coverages
2. Agreed value on total loss. No depreciation.
3. Personal property covered ashore, or in storage units.
4. Automatic coverage for adjoining floats, structures
5. Freeze damage covered. Flooding covered.
6. High liability limits available.
7. Medical payments included.
8. Salvage coverage included.
9. Flexible deductibles to lower premium.
10. Hired workers covered while at floating home.
....and more!

CONTACT THE BOAT INSURANCE AGENCY AT 206-324-8600 FOR DETAILS AND A QUICK COMPARISON (conveniently located at 1500 Westlake on Lk. Union)

This exclusive program is brought to you by Cigna Insurance and the Boat Insurance Agency, Inc.
Garden event small but successful, fun

A small group gathered April 2 to learn about ways to garden organically and about street trees. The Eastlake Community Council event raised more than $230 with a plant sale and auction.

The ECC would like to thank guest speakers Carl Elliot, garden coordinator for Seattle Tilth, and Brent Schmidt, Seattle City Light vegetation management crew, for donating their time. Thanks also go to the following individuals and businesses who donated plants and auction items:


Carl Elliot, who is a weekly guest on KUOW, talked about how to build up soil, both for regular gardens and containers. Among other things, Elliot said different organic and inorganic elements in the soil are essential to healthy plants, such as compost and grit (crushed granite, pumice, etc.).

Brent Schmidt fielded many questions regarding City Light’s less-than-desirable pruning methods under electrical wires. Schmidt said one solution is to plant small trees under wires.

Through City Light, Schmidt dispenses free street trees for replacing trees that have grown into wires, or for new plantings. Schmidt can be reached at 386-1902.

Business Notes

During President Clinton’s recent visit to Seattle, local chef Antolin Blanco was invited to cook for his staff; we hope that, as a known hamburger-fancier, the president also tried the sophisticated European cuisine offered by Blanco’s Pomodor Ristorante (266 Eastlake, 324-3160). Blanco hopes to post a promised thank-you letter from the President. ...

Responding to demand for deli sandwiches, Quick Stop (323-0010) has installed a new preparation counter, doubling the counter space and adding more refrigerator units underneath to increase productivity of their busy staff. ...

Rainier Precision, Inc. (1150 Eastlake Ave.), which traces back to the 1920s its Eastlake history, offers machine shop services and has been a pioneer in injection-molded plastics. Its Dri-Z-Air dehumidifier is sold nationally through Home Depot, Eagle Hardware, and Fred Meyer.

Eastlake welcomes a new public relations firm to the neighborhood. Graves Group (2825 Eastlake, 726-5597) was founded by Danner Graves, who has 30 years in the industry. The firm’s services include situation analysis, communications research, issues and trends projections, employee relations, integrated marketing communications, community involvement and strategic media relations. ...

Send your business news to Chris Leman, 85 E. Roanoke St., Seattle 98102, or cleman @oo.net.

Karen Boyd, L.Ac.
Licensed Acupuncturist

Treatment of Chronic Pain / CFS
Addiction/Recovery Treatment Support
Healing for the Body / Mind / Spirit

Eastlake Meridian Acupuncture Clinic (206) 860-1552
2366 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 326 Seattle, WA 98102

ECC Membership Application
Eastlake Community Council

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

Household $25
Business $50
Senior Citizen/Student/Low Income $10
Donation ____________________________

Eastlake Community Council — 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle, WA 98102