Concerns grow on TOPS remodel

The Seattle School Board and the school district Superintendent John Stanford have not responded to neighborhood concerns regarding the expansion of the Seward-Tops School.

The Eastlake Community Council has appealed the Landmarks Preservation Board's approval of the school design. At issue is a large addition between the 1917 brick building and the 1905 frame building, which would house a computer center for the school. Council members have said this structure imperils the historical integrity of the two buildings.

In addition, an Eastlake Community Council (ECC) subcommittee, made up of Carol Eychaner, Dick Arnold, Barbara Zegar and Marjorie Nelson, reviewed the school district's plans and prepared a list of mitigation measures to reduce the impact to the neighborhood.

The committee offered to meet with the school district and TOPS in an early effort to resolve concerns outside of the appeal arena. Letters asking for a meeting to discuss the concerns were sent Feb. 20 and May 8 to Stanford and school board President Linda Harris, however neither have responded to the committee or the ECC. The committee has been told that the district will not enter into written agreements with neighborhoods to resolve issues.

Committee members feel the refusal precludes an early and cooperative resolution of the issues. It also reflects an image to the public of a district that does not care about the impacts created by the district's decisions, and is not interested in making binding commitments, said committee member Carol Eychaner.

In absence of a response from TOPS and the district, the committee has discussed its concerns with the Department of Construction and Land Use. A DCLU decision on the district's master use permit and the development standard departure requests is due out in early July.

The committee identified concerns, impacts and mitigation related to construction, parking, traffic (especially on Roanoke Street), bus loading and unloading, student drop-off by parents, the

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Eastlake is for kids
Parents and kids up to age 5 gather each Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Rogers Playground for socializing and semistructured play. For questions, call Jules (329-0429).
Light rail on Eastlake still a possibility

Last year’s election favoring a regional light rail system assumed a tunnel under Capitol Hill, but planners are now reopening the question of a surface route down Eastlake Avenue -- or having the tunnel emerge at Harvard and Roanoke, with a possible bridge to the University district. Watching this situation closely are Downtown Seattle-U. District Light Rail Task Force local members Jules James (329-1468) and Ed Brighton (726-0213) and alternates Carol Eyecher (324-1716) and Kingsley Joneson (323-6031). Meetings of the Task Force are open to the public. Updates on this issue will be provided at the three public meetings listed earlier.

Open positions on community board

Would you or someone you know like to be considered for a nomination to the Eastlake Community Council? If so, please write a letter describing background and interests, addressed to ECC Nominations, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

To submit stories and information to the Eastlake News, call Kathy Tucker at 860-5934. Or send information to 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.
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proposed elimination of active outdoor recreation on the school property, public use of the school, noise from mechanical equipment and the height, bulk and scale of the new gymnasium.

The committee also documented the district’s and TOPS’ original statements that the revised school would have at most 250 to 300 students (existing and proposed enrollment is about 600). The district’s own consultants have stated that the Seward site would be "significantly compromised" with an enrollment of 500 students. The ECC committee requested an enrollment reduction to 450 students. In addition, the committee requested a prohibition against the taking of residences for school purposes.

For more information on the Seward expansion and a list of the neighborhood committees requested mitigation, call Carol Eychaner at 324-1716.

Transportation discussed in neighborhood meetings

Please join us for three meetings, all at 2517 Eastlake Ave. E.—Monday, July 7 (7 p.m. at Academy of Universal Truth; leadup tour begins at 6:15 at the University Bridge); Thursday, July 31 (6:30 p.m. at Seattle Police Officers Guild); and Tuesday, August 12 (7 p.m. at Academy of Universal Truth).

Earlier public meetings began to reexamine the 68 recommendations in the 1994 Eastlake Transportation Plan. An encouraging development is that the City has already implemented some of these recommendations (stop light at Boston St., medians on the northern stretch of Eastlake Ave.), with others on the way (stop light at Fuhrman Ave., improved intersection where Fairview bends near Eastlake Ave.).

Come hear the latest, and tell us what you think is best for Eastlake’s traffic, buses, bicycles, and pedestrian safety. Mark your preferences on handouts available at Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St., where a review copy of the 1994 Plan is available (see it also on the Eastlake web page, http://oo.net/oo/et, or by calling 322-5463).

Write us your ideas, c/o Eastlake Transportation, 117 E. Louisa St., Seattle 98102 or to cleman@oo.net (questions, 322-5463).

Karen Boyd, L.Ac.
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Sundays: 5 p.m. - Midnight
Closed Mondays

2366 Eastlake Ave. E.
324-3160
Businesses, residents work for more shoreline access

Through the Eastlake Tomorrow neighborhood planning process, a stakeholder group of residents, businesses, and property owners has been meeting to establish a safe walking route and shoreline access along Fairview Ave. E. between the Zymogenetics Steam Plant and E. Newton St. (meetings are public; the next one is Wednesday, July 2, 5:15 at 1910 Fairview Ave. E.).

Because of the mutual commitment to consensus-building, plans that long sat on the shelf are beginning to take on life.

The effort was inspired by three UW landscape architecture students' design for a walking path and view opportunities that impinge little on parking or wildlife habitat.

Seattle Public Utilities would construct sidewalks and landscaping by the NOAA base as mitigation for its earlier construction activities at that site.

A safer intersection of Fairview near Eastlake Ave.

Businesses and residents will also donate labor and materials, especially for Propeller Park at the Garfield street end.

To comment (see below on the proposed designs), or to get involved, contact John Crowser (324-9530) or Chris Leman (322-5463).

Group to work toward business revitalization

What would make the Eastlake business district more vital?

Businesses and residents will put their heads together Monday, August 4 (5:30-7:30 at the Seattle Police Officers Guild, 2517 Eastlake Ave. E.) to begin drafting the Eastlake Tomorrow plan for the business district.

What kinds of businesses does the neighborhood need, and what information can we give out to attract them? Many agree on the need to tidy up, but what should new trash cans look like, where should they go, how to pay for them, and how to get property owners and volunteers more involved?

Bring your ideas on these and other questions. Discussion will be facilitated by Susan Kaufman of Serafina (for questions, call 328-3560).

Make sure your business is represented at this important meeting!
Plans available for review

The latest proposals for various local parks can be viewed at Lake Union Mail (117 E. Louisa St.) and on the Eastlake web page, http://oo.net/oo/et. Design is at an advanced stage for Fairview-Olmsted Park (near Shelby St.), Good Turn Park (Fairview Ave. near Martin St.), the North Gateway (Eastlake and Harvard Avenues) and Rogers Playground/Franklin Ave, but it is not too late to comment. Early plans are also available for Propeller Park (Garfield streetend), the nearby Fairview shoreline walking route, and the Fairview/Eastlake intersection.

Planning against disaster

The Seattle Division of Emergency Management is organizing neighborhood preparedness teams similar to block watches. Call 233-5076 if you would like to get involved. And if you would like to help develop a plan for Eastlake's emergency needs, call 329-7640.

Hutch and Eastlake lead in balanced commuting

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center recently extended its already generous subsidies of transit use.

Now all the Center's 2300 employees receive at no cost to them a "Hutch Pass" allowing unlimited access to Metro, Pierce, Community and Kitsap Transit systems; the Center also fully subsidizes its employees' Metro Vanpools. The program is one of the most progressive in the nation.

For previous leadership in promoting commuting alternatives through ridematching, bonuses, drawings, and other promotions, the Center had already won an unprecedented third "Diamond Award" from state and local agencies and the county Economic Development Council. The Center's efforts fit well with Eastlake residents' unexcelled use of buses and other commuting alternatives.
Eastlake welcomes nine new businesses (listed here from north to south):

Gallery Die Brucke is a new art gallery and studio at 3202 Harvard Avenue E. (286-9707) just south of the University Bridge and in the shadow of the I-5 bridge (Brucke is German for “Bridge”).

Doran Patrick’s Custom Upholstery is at 3212 Harvard Ave. E. (323-5225), specializing in antiques and new and custom crafted furniture.

Ultimate Presence (3240 Eastlake Ave. E., 720-0500) offers promotional products, many locally made.

Seattle Sport and Social Club (2948 Eastlake Ave. E., 328-7772) organizes sports leagues on a seasonal basis for co-ed flag/touch football, co-ed volleyball (indoor, sand, or grass), soccer, men’s/women’s basketball, ultimate frisbee, softball, and floor hockey, as well as happy hours, outings, and national tournaments.

Lake Union Healing Arts (2727 Fairview Ave. E., 720-4781) offers therapeutic massage, aromatherapy, and body wraps.

Canandaigua Wine Company (2633 Eastlake Ave. E., 322-9691) is the regional distributor for Almaden, Ingle-nook, Paul Masson, and more.

Windworks (2370 Fairview Ave. E., 720-9867) offers sailing instruction, rentals, and club discounts.

Maland Communications (1520 Eastlake Ave., 323-5166) rents out audiovisual equipment, sells pagers and cellular sales, and contracts for video production.

Allstate Insurance Company has opened an office at 1520 Eastlake Avenue (320-9999). Agent in charge is Nop Phanouvong.

Seattle Caviar Company has relocated to 2833 Eastlake Ave. (323-3005). Co-owners Dale and Betsy Sherron offer domestic and foreign caviar, specializing in caviar from the Caspian Sea.

Bibelots and Books, where longtime resident Shirley Schneider specializes in vintage children’s books, has moved to the 222 Westlake Antique Mall.

Congratulations to KIRO host Dave Ross for overtaking Rush Limbaugh and getting the biggest audience of any Seattle radio show. We knew all along that people would rather be “Eastlake Avenue Crusaders for Common Sense” than “dittoheads”!

Dr. Michael Lewis, Eastlake Chiropractic Center (2722 Eastlake Ave., 324-8600) has been certified by the Chiropractic Council for the Performing Arts to provide backstage care for cast and crew of traveling Broadway shows.

We wish a punctureless ride to bicycle and ski repairman extraordinaire Gordy Holt, whose Bicycle Wrench has closed, we hope temporarily. Come back, Gordy! You can write him at 1322 Bertha Ave., Bremerton 98312 or gpine@oz.net.

Your business hasn’t been mentioned in this column? Write to Chris Leman, 85 E. Roanoke St., Seattle 98102, or call 322-5463.