January 1994

Board Members

David Huber, President
Michael Sullivan, Vice President
Judy Rhodes, Vice President
Barbara Zegar, Secretary
Surain afSandeberg, Treasurer
Andrea Brenneke and Dan Clarkson
John Cornethan
Joy Huber
Chris Leman
Marjorie Nelson Steinbrueck
Joe Rodgers
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Eastlake News is distributed free to residents of the Eastlake Community and members of the Council.

Dick Wagner's vision 1970 for a greener Fairview Avenue
Fairview Avenue

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Editor:
Robert afSandeberg

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1. Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Seward School Library.
ECC General meeting with Margaret Pageler. See page 2.

February 8. Tuesday at 7:00 pm at 2317½ Yale Ave E.
ECC Land Trust/Diversity Programs meeting. See Page 7.

February 15. Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Police Officers' Guild, 2517 Eastlake. ECC Special meeting about traffic. See page 2.

February 24. Thursday 4:30-8:30 at Seattle Central Community College.
Transportation open house. See page 2.
NOTICE TO ARTISTS:

Open competition for artists to submit proposals for Eastlake Gateway Sculpture.

To receive project description, leave your name and address on the message machine of Joe Rodgers 328-6115 or Joy Huber 322-2499.

ECC MEETINGS

City Councilmembers Margaret Pageler and Jim Street will attend the next General Meeting on Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00 pm in the Seward School Library. For more information on this important meeting, see President's Column further down on this page.

STREETScape DESIGN AND TRAFFIC PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 15

What should Eastlake do about traffic, and how should the street-related aspects of new developments be designed? We need your ideas at this Special Meeting Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm at 2517 Eastlake Avenue E. (the Police Officers' Guild building). It is the kickoff for a year of planning led by a steering committee drawn equally from residents and local businesses. Featured at the meeting will be a visual preference survey with slides narrated by Carol Eychaner, a key citizen representative on the advisory committee that produced the City's design review process.

Among the design questions to think about before the meeting are: should big new buildings have access across the sidewalk or through the alley; should parking garages be prohibited right alongside the sidewalk, and should sidewalks be straight or curvy? And what street changes, if any, are needed to deal with traffic problems? If you can’t come, write us your ideas, to Traffic Plan and Design Guidelines, c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102.

CITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD SPENDING YOUR ADVICE NEEDED

The mayor is asking each neighborhood for advice on the 1995 City budget, and the Eastlake Community Council wants your help in preparing a response. In past years, ECC's priority recommendations have included the return of the bookmobile, funding of a feasibility study for a community center, increased police and parking enforcement, improved lighting, restoration of our cobblestone streets, more traffic signals, more bus shelters, and improved bicycle routes.

The Community Council will draw up its recommendations based on your suggestions on the attached survey form, and your comments at our General Meeting on February 1. Please fill out the survey and return it by that date to Lake Union Mail at 117 E. Louisa, or bring it to the meeting. Be as specific as possible—what most needs to be done in our neighborhood—and where?

TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE

The Seattle Engineering Department will host a series of meetings to highlight transportation projects and ideas. The main goal of the meetings is to collect ideas from residents. Eastlake is included in the Central Seattle meeting on Thursday February 24 between 4:30 and 8:30 pm in Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway (at the south entrance). For more information, call Mike Morris-Lent 684-0811.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The City’s comprehensive plan could have some major impacts on the well-loved and highly livable little community of Eastlake. As long as the people who live and work here are able to participate in the process in a meaningful way, the ultimate resolution to a lot of thorny problems could culminate in a decent rose garden!

City councilmember Margaret Pageler has asked to address our next General Meeting on Tuesday, February 1st, at 7:00 pm at the Seward School Library. Everyone is invited! Councilmember Jim Street will also be in attendance as an interested observer. The city council wants to know what all of us have to say about the comprehensive plan and the directions Eastlake could take as the energies of State Growth Management Act flow through Seattle.

Your attendance on February 1st and the active participation by your and your neighbors is what the
Eastlake Community Council is all about and what will allow these hard-working Councilmembers to benefit from their experience here.

Now, after more than 20 years of activism and three years of intensive community planning through the Eastlake Tomorrow Project, there is a pretty clear consensus in Eastlake about how the members of the community want to see Eastlake evolve. One very important thing to note is that the basic zoning of our community does not have to change at all, in order to accommodate our common vision or the population growth that the City expects.

While the zoning doesn't have to change, other things will change. As everyone can see, our south gateway area is quickly transforming as the Steam Plant renovation nears completion. In a year, with the involvement of the community, there will also be a gateway art installation at that site. Another visible change is the gradual improvement of the buildings and businesses along Eastlake Avenue. The white lights in the trees between Lynn and Louisa, put up by the Eastlake Business Association, have helped establish a more attractive town center, and heartfelt thanks go out to them. There will be even more changes along Eastlake Avenue when Metro’s bus electrification and sewer projects both get underway in the coming months. The shoreline will also change as the Fairview walking path is designed and constructed. Finally, we’ll be working on a comprehensive traffic plan to improve safety and transportation flows.

With all these changes going on, right now is an exciting time to become involved! Opportunities are available for your creativity to have a real impact. I look forward to seeing many of you at that February 1st meeting and other dynamic project groups that are moving along so well. Thank you for your time and energy, helping to make Eastlake a community worth living in.

David Huber, 322-2499

EASTLAKE ON-LINE (EOL)

There is a new computer bulletin board in town, and it’s got Eastlake written all over it. Eastlake Online is devoted to this neighborhood, its residents and workers. If you have a modem, you are invited to call 328-1535; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your baud rate should be set at 2400bps. If you don’t have a modem, there will eventually be other ways to access the service, like walk-up terminals and loaner boxes to call in from any phone line.

The service has several goals. The community council is expected to benefit first from it: this will be a way to get input from people, and to let folks know what we’re doing for the neighborhood. Residents and workers will benefit from having a new, efficient way to communicate with one another. Lastly, Eastlake online can serve as a library/museum, with reference materials instantly accessible. Old photographs, written music, even sound recordings are theoretically possible. The neighborhood doesn’t have a community center as of yet; Eastlake Online can perhaps serve some of those functions.

Right now we’re in the first stage of development. Presently the service is running on an IBM XT computer, using one phone line and a 20 megabyte hard drive. With the low cost of used hardware, we are hoping to expand as our needs grow.

As with all projects of this kind, we’re passing the hat around. The greatest need right now is for some skilled hackers to help put together the next computer, and to integrate some modem/terminal equipment into loaner boxes so people without computers can dial in. Woodworking skills are needed to design and build a plywood enclosure for a touring unit (to let people without computers around the neighborhood check out our BBS). And of course, donations of obsolete computer equipment are most especially needed. Eventually EOL could have 4 to 6 permanent terminals, installed in local businesses.

What is a computer Bulletin Board system? A BBS has many ways of being perceived. Some people use it as a computerized classified ads resource: to find things, and meet people. I’ve met future housemates, girlfriends, and coworkers on line. Auto work, computer gear, furniture, and music tapes are some of the things I’ve been able to get free or cheap using the local BBS’s.

BBS’s are a source of news. Everyone who taps into it is a reporter, telling the other users about what she’s seen. During the hydroplane races this summer, a group of 8,000 people had a political rally at volunteer park. The event wasn’t mentioned in the Times or P.I., but several participants and onlookers posted news to the network.

People often use BBS’s as a soapbox, explaining at great length their political/religious views, their complaints and praises, and their grudges against other people. What’s nice about the technology is that you can always press a key to ignore a user that annoys you. Some systems allow you to automatically ignore people who are habitually odious.
A BBS can also serve as a large 'think tank', for the solving of questions. If you have something on your mind late at night, you can ask the group at large, and perhaps get a useful answer. It's like having a room full of experts (everyone is expert at something) at your disposal. Caveat Emptor, though! BBS's are also a way to communicate with people, to play games, swap recipes, discuss politics, and commiserate.

To get an idea of the variety of BBS's, take a look at the back of Puget Sound Computer User, where 400 local BBS's are listed.

If you don’t have a computer, and want to get a hint of what BBS'ing is all about, you don't have to wait for Eastlake Online to go "public". Go to a branch of the Seattle Public Library, and look at some of the menu options. There is a community events directory and calendar, and access to other municipal BBS's. You can even sign on to some of the Freenets, (as some of the public BBS's are called). But don't tell anyone you heard it here....

Joe Rodgers 328-6115

AROUND EASTLAKE

Best wishes to Helen Mitchell--Popular dog-fancier and writer Helen Mitchell suffered a stroke in December, and is recovering at Ballard Hospital. Known to many through her years of walking Looloo (who awaits her owner's recovery as eagerly as we do), Helen would enjoy your visit. We’re thinking of you, Helen.

Past plans for Fairview recalled--The next year’s effort to produce a traffic plan could at last solve continued safety problems on Fairview Avenue E. Future issues of the Eastlake News will report on current alternatives, but it is interesting to look at some past efforts. In the 1960's the Seattle Engineering Department proposed to make Fairview into a four-lane arterial. Dick Wagner--now head of the Center for Wooden Boats--developed a greener alternative in 1970 (see page 1). The ECC archives also includes the undated drawing below that envisioned pocket parks in the middle of the street; we would be very interested to hear from anyone who knows anything about this proposal. Please send in your ideas on what would be best for Fairview, to the Traffic Plan, c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle, WA 98102.

RIDESHARE EXCHANGE

Did you know that our neighborhood rideshare exchange is one of the nation’s few that try to match riders at the home-end of the commute (not in the workplace), and include non-work trips? To help with this innovative program, we are pleased to welcome student intern Donna Zeck, who will be working to expand our outreach for the next two months. Are you searching for a carpool or riders for a regular commute? Could you use a ride to the doctor, shopping, etc.--or help someone who does? Leave a message at 322-5463 or fill out the form on the last page or at the rideshare exchange bulletin board at Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa. And help us think of some exciting new ways to promote ridesharing in the neighborhood.

Craftsman style home saved--Congratulations to Jim Reckers and his parents--longtime Eastlakers--for helping to save the old home at 2514 Yale Ave E. Their tasteful renovation has the home looking better than in half a century, and its successful sale shows that Eastlake’s old homes are too valuable to knock down. Welcome to the new residents, who inherit not only a fine old home, but what reputed to be the neighborhood’s biggest asparagus garden!

When I-5 almost moved westward--This alarming drawing was done in the 1970's for a state study of ways to "solve" the weave as drivers head from SR-520 onto I-5 and on to the Mercer exit. The sidewalk on Boylston would be completely blocked, and the huge ramp would throw more noise and shadow on the adjacent homes and on Seward School--just visible at the left. The Eastlake Community Council successfully fought this proposal, and is watching carefully as the state begins a new study of SR-520.
SEAPLANE EXPANSION THREATENED

He has moved to Bellingham, and we wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

Ruth Presler

GOODBYE, FLOYD LEE

Eastlake lost one of its most valued businesses when the Floyd Lee Color Lab closed its doors recently. Generations of neighborhood pictures were developed there. Floyd is one of the true giants of museum-quality dye-transfer color enlargements, and continues to receive commissions from all over the world. Now 85, Floyd is not quitting, just moving his place of business back to where he was born in Ellensburg. The moving process will not be completed until June. Floyd, we'll miss you, your family and employees.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

The first draft of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, "Toward a Sustainable Seattle" (the Complan), released last summer, has a section on neighborhood planning. The Complan expressed a preference for a top-down approach to neighborhood planning allowing for minimal amounts of collaboration from the neighborhoods. This type of planning would result in a more homogenized City, modeled after the visions of central planners.

Seattle is a city of diverse neighborhoods, and the collective character of the neighborhoods makes up the City that we treasure. To protect and preserve this treasure we must protect, preserve and nurture the character of each individual neighborhood. Such a process involves planning from the neighborhood level, with support from the City to provide for consistency, equitable distribution of resources and coordination of regulations and infrastructures.

The first draft of the Complan has been heavily debated, with strong input from this neighborhood and others. The second draft of the Complan is due out in the next month, and it appears that our strong critiques of the initial draft did not fall on deaf ears. Our thanks go out to Councilwoman Pageler for her
recent, well-crafted resolution to the Council. Her resolution calls for (1) the transference of planning staff to work directly on neighborhood planning and (2) to be stationed in Neighborhood Service Centers and (3) that any zoning changes will come as a result of neighborhood planning. Provision (3) would have been implemented in the second half of this year, beginning in July.

Thanks also to the other Councilpersons who kept their campaign commitment to focus on neighborhood planning and kept the resolution alive in Committee -- Jane Noland and Tom Weeks. However, Councilman Jim Street made a counterproposal to the full Council delaying neighborhood planning until the following year, which resulted in splitting the Council votes. Therefore, only the first part of the proposal passed. Many neighborhood proponents are very disappointed with Councilman Street’s actions. Nevertheless, the transference of planning staff to neighborhood planning is a great first step. It still may be possible to get neighborhood planning at the Community Centers through the Work Plan Development of the Planning Department’s Budget. The Mayor and the City Council should be lobbied. Please lend your support.

Advanced copies of the next draft of the Complan have some encouraging components. The timing for full implementation of the neighborhood planning component is reduced from twenty years to just two to four. In direct response to our requests, neighborhood planning guidelines now offer consistency and coordination with City and regional infrastructures. There is, however, concern as to what resources will be provided for neighborhood planning. No money should go into urban village development unless sufficient money also goes into neighborhood planning. Please call the Mayor and recommend that he support neighborhood planning.

A last concern to be noted involves the City’s interpretation of the Growth Management Act’s requirement for "concurrency" -- that is, public facilities must be developed "concurrent" with growth. The new draft of the Complan interprets this to mean that only transportation changes must be concurrent with growth. This ignores other public facilities that need to be provided concurrent with growth such as libraries, sidewalks, and community centers. Growth without services is unacceptable.

If you have any questions or would like to become more involved with this important part of the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, please call Dan Clarkson 720-0300.

Dan Clarkson

Housing in Eastlake Today

A densely populated, vibrant, at-risk community--By all accounts, Eastlake is a fairly dense, single-family/multi-family/houseboat mixed neighborhood with commercial areas and access to transportation. We fit the definition of "Evolving Residential Urban Village" in the Draft Comprehensive Plan (Draft) because of our urban characteristics. Much of the charm and livability of the community arises from the diversity of housing types and residents that are found here.

According the 1990 census, approximately 75% of Eastlake’s housing units were occupied by renters with a median monthly rent of $450. There were 1,974 multi-family units, 351 single family units and 112 "other" units. The Draft indicates that multifamily housing was at 86.3% in 1990 compared to 82.4% in 1970. The density in our community continues to increase because the entire community is zoned "multi-family" (L-2 or L-3), and structures are allowed to be 30ft. high. The Draft assumes that 1,104 additional dwelling units could be developed under existing zoning, but that only 400 - 700 new units need be developed in Eastlake to meet city-wide goals. (Planning Department, Eastlake Fact Sheet June 16, 1993). Therefore, from the Draft’s own assumptions, existing zoning appears to allow Eastlake to meet the required increased density.

The Comprehensive Plan

Pressures to densify further--Under the Growth Management Act, the City of Seattle must plan for increased density. Our neighborhood, like other already dense multi-family neighborhoods, is being asked to bear a greater burden of this growth than single family neighborhoods. Although the Draft assumes Eastlake can achieve its targeted goals without land use zoning changes, the Draft proposes changes for all Residential Urban Villages that would apply to Eastlake and would adversely affect our community.

Density Potential Equals Displacement--The proposed "predominant housing type" of a Residential Urban Village (Eastlake) is ground related duplexes and town houses, small or moderate scale apartment buildings with 30 - 40 foot height limits; but according to the Draft (Figure 3-47) large scale apartment buildings from 40 - 60 feet high are "likely" to be included. Where there is a zoning potential for development that far exceeds the existing housing, there may market pressure to demolish the existing structures and build to the capacity new zoning will allow. As older housing is demolished, we can expect a continuing gentrification of the neighborhood and displacement of low-moderate income residents who will be unable to afford the new units.
**Pressure From The Commons**--If the Commons plan is adopted together with the Comprehensive Plan, the increased investment and development of the land to our south likely will increase the land values and development pressures in Eastlake.

**No Budget and No Guarantees For Affordable Housing**--The Growth Management Act requires planning for affordable housing as well as increased density. The Draft raises policy issues and options about paying for affordable housing but requires no such development or subsidies to preserve existing affordable housing concurrent with increased density; nor does it budget any money for it. This may result in the loss of affordable housing units and the displacement of those who once lived in Eastlake and throughout the City. A similar situation exists with other capital projects and investments such as libraries, community centers and parks.

Planning is important for the future of our city and grass-roots planning is critical for our neighborhood (see attached article on the neighborhood planning process). For Eastlake's tomorrow, the Final Comprehensive Plan must not only sound good, it must include processes and budgets to ensure that increased density will not displace or stifle those who call Eastlake "home."

Andrea Brenneke

**Eastlake Tomorrow Project Reports**

**Eastlake Diversity Program**

The next **Eastlake Community Land Trust/Diversity Programs meeting** will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 pm at Dick Carlton's home, 2317½ Yale Avenue East 329-5753.

Andrea Brenneke 720-0300

**Eastlake Towncenter Project**

**METRO ART PROJECT GEARING UP**

Carolyn Law, the artist chosen by METRO to determine the art that will accompany the electrification of the 70 busline, met with Eastlakers last week to get a first look at opportunities for the art project. She will be in and out of the community for the next several months getting to know us and the special things that make up Eastlake. We are looking for things that make us uniquely us. If you have a special spot Carolyn should visit, or a story that is typically Eastlake, jot it down and send it to Judy Rhodes at 2510 Fairview Ave E. She’ll get it to Carolyn.

**Watch for the daffodils!!**

The daffodil bulbs are sprouting all along Eastlake, under the trees, along the sidewalk. Protect them, watch where you walk, and we'll have a river of gold down Eastlake in a couple of months.

Judy Rhodes
EASTLAKE RIDESHARE EXCHANGE

In a carpool or vanpool I'd like to
_____ Drive _____ Ride _____ Share driving

Destination(s)

Times and days of the week

Name ______________________ Phone(s) ______________________

Address: ____________________ (optional)

Questions and suggestions welcome at 322-5463. Please also join Metro's rideshare bank; call Metro at 625-4500 to obtain an application.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This is a □ NEW □ RENEWAL membership.

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NAME/S ______________________ PHONE ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________
The Eastlake Community Council would like your input to help us respond to a request from the City for suggestions on City budget decisions affecting Eastlake. We will use the assessment that results as a way to request resources for neighborhood improvements. Please help us out by taking a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Thank you!

1. Place a check mark next to the situation(s) you want addressed. Use the space on the right to indicate location and/or further describe the situation.

**Streets, sidewalks, and paths (including bike paths)**
- Repairs
- Improved lighting
- Maintenance/litter control
- Sidewalk/path repair, replacement, or installation
- Landscaping/beautification; restoration of cobblestone streets
- Other

**Parks and public facilities**
- Lack open spaces
- Maintenance of grounds and facilities
- Lack a community center
- Security/lighting
- Lack a library or bookmobile
- Other

**Traffic control**
- Speeding
- Heavy traffic/congestion
- Unsafe pedestrian crossing
- Inadequate parking
- Other

**Public safety concerns**
- Drug activity
- Vandalism/graffiti
- Burglary/other property crimes
- Harbor patrol and fire boats
- Other

**Public health concerns**
- Noise/other public nuisance
- Litter/garbage/toxic materials
- Stray animals/rats/other unhealthy conditions
- Other

**Housing/commercial building**
- Abandoned/vacant/deteriorated/poor condition
- Zoning/development issues
- Need for more housing; for whom; what kind
- Other

Over, please...
2. Please choose the five most pressing issues from the list above.

A. 
B. 
C. 
D. 
E. 

3. If you had $1000 to address each of the five problems listed, how would you spend it?

A. 
B. 
C. 
D. 
E. 

4. Comments

PLEASE RETURN BY FEBRUARY 1, 1994. Thank you!