Next Main Public Meeting

March 21 7-9 pm
Seward School Library

Public Meeting on Sound Transit's Reevaluation of the High Level Bridge

Now’s the chance to express your opinion on the High Level Bridge and its potential impacts on the Eastlake neighborhood. Sound Transit will be presenting information about the re-evaluation of the high level bridge and seeking public input during ECC’s public meeting on March 21, 7-9 pm in the Seward School Library.

On November 16th, the Sound Transit Board asked Sound Transit to re-evaluate the high level bridge as an alternative to tunneling under Portage Bay. The high level bridge alternative is being reconsidered as a cost saving measure, but has not replaced the portage bay tunnel as the preferred option. The high level bridge involves a tunnel portal near Harvard Ave, a high bridge crossing the Ship Canal parallel to I-5, and relocation of the Pacific Street station to Campus Parkway. On the Eastlake end, the high level bridge would be about the same elevation as the express lanes. Also, included in the High-Level Bridge alignment is a segment of tunnel near Roanoke Park/SR-520 that was not evaluated in the original EIS.

This public meeting is an opportunity for Eastlake to shape the re-evaluation of the high-level bridge to ensure that our concerns are included in the study. For more information about the public meeting please contact ECC president Owen Reese, oreese@drizzle.com, 323-4156.
Like the city and the newspapers themselves, Eastlake was torn by the Times and P-I strike. The Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild has long been headquartered at 2900 Eastlake Avenue, and signs of solidarity were posted in many Eastlake homes and businesses. Some of the most active striking newspaper workers live in the neighborhood, as do some of those who who voted against striking, and continued writing for the Times or P-I. The Times' official spokesperson throughout the strike had only recently moved from the neighborhood. Local businesses were particularly helpful to the strike, including Espresso Splendido (donated coffee, and discounts to strikers) and Louisa's Bakery and Café (donated pastries). The Union Record (an impressive newspaper put out by volunteers during the strike) might not have succeeded if IFPTE's Local 17 (engineers who work for many city, county, and state agencies) had not donated a suite at the union-owned 2900 Eastlake building for the 321 volunteers who helped put out eighteen print editions and 50 days of web site editions.

Eastlake residents have also been at the center of controversy over extension of the Monorail. David Huber initiated the lawsuit under which a judge found that the City government was not carrying out the 1997 monorail initiative; Peter Sherwin was a leader in the passage of the second monorail initiative that passed last year. On other hand former City Council member Paul Kraabel, also an Eastlake resident, co-authored the voter's pamphlet statement against the second initiative and upheld that position in several debates, including the one ECC held at Seward School.

Psychic, Palm, and Tarot Card Readings by Barbara is now open at 3111 Eastlake Avenue, 324-6499; hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Barbara has 25 years experience in this field, and is also an Eastlake resident. ... Terry Proios, owner of 14 Carrot Café at 2305 Eastlake Ave. (324-1442) is now also owner of the espresso stand outside her restaurant; barista is Michele Leal. ... Al Pham, owner of Eastlake Deli and Grocery (2707 Eastlake Ave., 323-3750) is purchasing the Westlake Deli (2132 Westlake Ave. N., 286-6610). ... Lin and Company (1500 Fairview Ave. E. #200, 324-7990) offers financial, payroll, and tax services to businesses (including many of the region's restaurants), as well as personal financial planning advice and services. ...
...evaluation and preparation of graphics for legal exhibits, including photos, blueprints, Powerpoint, and other media. ... Donovan Design (117 E. Louisa St. #105, 860-8714, www.earthlink.net/~odonovan) offers graphic and publishing services. ...

While Eastlake dot-coms are shrinking (some to non-existence), other computer-related firms are booming. Asta Networks (1100 Eastlake Ave.) is expanding with the success of its software, which is a world leader in combating hacker attacks on e-mail systems and web sites. The company was named for the terrier in Dashiell Hammett's "The Thin Man." ... Portage Bay Solutions (1520 Eastlake Ave. #108, 542-4656, www.portagebay.com) offers classes and consulting in the Windows or Macintosh use of Filemaker Pro, Powerpoint, Excel, Word, etc. Its offices are co-located with the Seattle Macintosh downtown Business Users Group (dBUG), 624-9329. ...

MSN.com recently featured Seattle Caviar (2833 Eastlake Ave., 323-3005), calling owners Dale and Betsy Sherrow "generous hosts and amiable guides who will help you decipher the menu of Caspian Sea and domestic caviars." ... On November 2, the Seattle Times' Weekend section featured rowers and rowing classes of the Pocock Rowing Center, 328-0778. ... Congratulations to longtime Eastlake boatbuilder Norm Blanchard for the recent Pacific Magazine feature article about his former boatyard here. ... Best wishes to longtime KIRO radio morning news anchor Bill Yeend, who has left the station after 30 years. And thanks to morning talk show host Dave Ross for continuing to style his show the "Eastlake Avenue Crusaders for Common Sense." ... The Kim Brooke Group (2042 Eastlake Ave., 329-1111), which teaches poise in acting and modeling, sponsored one of the more poise-challenging contests at July's Bite of Seattle. Contestants had to carry a cell phone throughout the race, eat strawberry shortcake without using their hands, hop around in a burlap sack, consume an ice cream bar before it melted, then kiss a lizard. ...
Non-profit organizations continue to be active in Eastlake. Classical ensembles with offices at 2366 Eastlake Ave. are the Early Music Guild (325-7066) and Seattle Baroque (322-3118). Both offer acclaimed concert series in a variety of formats, including soloists, small groups, and orchestra. ... Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has opened at 825 Eastlake Avenue a multistory outpatient clinic that it shares with UW and Children's hospitals. The City is considering Fred Hutchinson's plans for new construction near Fairview Ave. that would involve vacation of part of Ward Street. ... The Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority held its January 16 annual meeting at Seward School, which its newsletter describes as a remodeled combination of a late nineteenth century frame schoolhouse, a 1905 English revival frame building, and a 1917 brick school. The City-chartered non-profit organization will return to our neighborhood June 30 for a "Tour of Modern-Era Buildings in Seattle's Eastlake Neighborhood" organized by architect Susan Boyle. Tickets are $10; contact History Seattle at 622-6952 or www.historicseattte.org. ... Businesses, residents, and property owners at Eastlake's north end are forming a tax-exempt legal fund regarding transportation impacts in the area, and are particularly concerned over Sound Transit consideration of a high-level light rail bridge over the Ship Canal and a tunnel opening near the intersection of Eastlake and Harvard avenues. Contact: Wes Larson, 320-9847, weslar@home.com.

Mentions in this column do not imply endorsement by the ECC, writer or editor. Send your business news to Chris Leman (cteman@oo.net), 85 E. Roanoke Street, Seattle 98102-3222.

WSDOT reveals possible new flyover ramp and tunnel

Eastlakers attending the January 17 Eastlake Community Council general meeting heard a Washington State Department of Transportation representative say that the agency is considering some projects that could bring serious change to the neighborhood. A flyover ramp connecting I-5 and SR520 could add one or more lanes of traffic above the interchange in front of Seward School, with possible view and noise impacts (see drawing of a similar proposal from the 1970s). A tunnel from an expanded SR520 bridge could emerge near the shoreline intersection of Eastlake and Fairview avenues, bringing more traffic from the Montlake area and east of the Lake, and attracting more drivers to our local streets who seek a quick way to get onto SR520 westbound. Eastlakers need to get involved in the March 6 open house and the design workshops that may be on a different day; WSDOT will seek public comment on these proposals. Please get involved!! Contact Jim Reckers, 323-8537, invader5@msn.com; or Chris Leman, 322-5463, cteman@oo.net to be notified of comment opportunities or check the web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/translake.

Plane Crash Memorial

The families of Alaska Airlines Flight #261 welcome tax-deductible donations toward construction of a monument commemorating those lost in the Jan. 31, 2000 tragedy that took our own Peg and Tom Stockley. The monument design will be chosen by the families; Alaska Airlines is not involved in any aspect of the fund. Checks (made out to Alaska Airlines #261 Seattle Memorial Monument Fund) can be mailed to Seattle Foundation, 425 Pike Street, Suite 510, Seattle 98101-2334. Questions: Paige Stockley, 720-7920.

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Save the Date!

DINING OUT FOR KIDS A Benefit for the New Rogers Playground On Sunday, April 22, Eastlake restaurants will do more than just serve up some of the best food in the city. To show their support for the new playground at Rogers Playfield, many Eastlake restaurants are participating in a neighborhood-wide fundraising event and donating 10-20% of their food profits. The money raised will help with construction and equipment costs of the playground, scheduled for opening in September 2001. The funds will be virtually doubled, thanks to the $115,000 matching grant from the Department of Neighborhoods.

As of February 10, the following restaurants have agreed to participate: Serafina Pazzo's On Eastlake Pomodoroo Cafe Ambrosia 14 Carrot Cafe (serving Sunday brunch) Louisa's Bakery (serving Sunday brunch). Be sure to save the date and plan on dining out at an old favorite or trying something new. It will be a special time to see neighbors, experience delicious food, and support the playground while having a good time. Look for event posters and flyers in a few weeks for a complete list of participating restaurants. For more information, call Laurie at 323-4556.

The following is a list of generous supporters who have contributed to the playground as of February 8. Many thanks to all!


Remember, you have until May 1 to donate and write a message for a glass leaf in the playground. Get creative! Be silly, sentimental, or wistful. Honor kids, friends, teachers, family members. Seward School Alumni, pets, you name it.

Here are just a few samples for small and large leaves we've received thus far:

One Fish, Two Fish Run, Jump, Play With Abandon! Follow Your Rainbows Alex J Plays Here Have Fun. Read A Book. Remember To Laugh Beep Grinstein Dear- est Fletcher, Littlest of Angels Ian Kraabel—A Really Neat Guy Kl, Marty & Vava Gottberg/Cole "Sweet Family Love"
Lynn Street Art Tile Project

Now is the time to paint the tiles to be installed in the park. Come to the workshop with your design ideas for 8” tiles.

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOP

SEWARD SCHOOL LUNCHROOM on Saturday
March 10 10 to 4

For more information, call Laurel at 324-3596 or Caroline at 323-4302

Commemorate residents and events of our Eastlake Neighborhood!

Donations (tax deductible) are welcome and needed. Just send your check (made out to FHA) to Floating Homes Association 2329 Fairview Ave. East, Seattle 98102 Attn: Julia Forbes

name _______________________________________________ donation amount ____________________________
address ___________________________________________ phone/email ________________________________
Lake Union Crew update

During the morning of January 12, Lake Union Crew’s structures were removed from their moorage at 11 E. Allison St. and taken to a temporary location at Lake Union Dry Dock at the S. end of Lake Union.

The removal of the rowing club’s structures was ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein and is a significant step in the City’s and community’s three year effort to get Lake Union Crew to comply with developmental regulations.

In February ’98, the LUC structures and the rowing club use were determined illegal by the City because neither the structures nor the use had City-required land use and environmental approvals. Under a settlement agreement signed April ’99 by LUC, the City and community groups, including the ECC, LUC was allowed to stay at the 11 E. Allison site under limited operations and only if LUC diligently pursued land use permits in accordance with the schedule set up in the agreement. Last September, an independent dispute resolution decision-maker ruled that LUC failed to perform as required by the agreement, and that the structures had to be removed and the rowing club discontinued.

Even though the settlement agreement stated that the independent decision-maker’s ruling was not appealable, LUC nonetheless filed a lawsuit against the City and named ECC, Floating Homes Association and the 3100 Fairview Condo Association as co-defendants because we had intervened in a previous lawsuit filed by LUC. The second lawsuit sought a preliminary injunction from the U.S. District Court to keep the City from removing the structures and closing the rowing club. Written and oral arguments were presented by the Court, by LUC, The City and community groups.

In her November 13, 2000 decision, Judge Rothstein ruled that LUC failed to demonstrate “...the irreparable harm required to establish the need for the extraordinary equitable remedy of an injunction...”, that LUC “...did breach the agreement...” and that LUC failed to demonstrate a “...likelihood of success on the merits of its case...”. Judge Rothstein denied LUC’s request for a preliminary injunction and ordered the rowing club closed by December 15, 2000 and the structures removed by January 15, 2001.

So what’s next for LUC? In accordance with options detailed in the Court order, LUC appears to be attempting once again to get its structures classified as vessels by the Coast Guard. Plans for retrofitting the structures to comply with CG regulations have been submitted and are also being reviewed by the City and by an expert we (ECC and The Floating Homes Association) have hired.

Even if the structures are successfully refitted and get vessel classification, they would still need City land use and environmental approvals to operate as a land-based rowing club. If the structures are classified as vessels, it may be possible for the refitted structures to be "moored" at a dock approved for commercial moorage, but they could not be used as a rowing club while moored. The 11 E. Allison site is not currently approved for commercial moorage or for a rowing club - it is our understanding that neither the refitted vessels/structures nor the rowing club could be located there without new City permits and approvals.

Other claims in LUC’s lawsuit against the City remain before Judge Rothstein. LUC is once attempting to locate the structures at 11 E. Allison without additional permits and further seeks in excess of $10 million in damages against the City. A trial on permit issues is tentatively set for November 2001 and a trial on the damages claim may be scheduled for June 2002.

Lake Union Crew Structures being towed to Lake Union Dry Dock in January

To help with our past and future legal fees, please send donations to the ECC, c/o Carol Eychaner, 2348 Franklin Ave. Seattle 98102. Checks should be made out to "ECC (or "SCCF/ECC" for tax-deductible donations) and earmarked for LUC activities. Any questions? Call Carol Eychaner at 324-7716.
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8.) The locker rooms are too clean - I'd rather shower in a mildew-infested sweatbox.
7.) I have a headache.
6.) I'm completely self-motivated to exercise.
5.) I'm having my appendix removed this week.
4.) It's too convenient - my location and parking excuses won't hold up.
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Watch Our Playground Grow

The New Playground at Rogers Playfield

After many years with only a swingset, Eastlake's central park will soon be the home of a dynamic new playground for kids of all ages. It's a place for Eastlake families to gather and for TOPS public schoolers to play their hearts out.

Opening September 2001, the playground is growing in the NE corner of the park and features a mini version of our own Lake Union, including:

- A toddler area with sandbox, tug boat and climbing logs.
- A climb-on float plane!
- A large playscape with slides, a bridge and lots of play opportunities for many kids at once.
- A big-kid climber for more fun.

The design retains everyone's favorite tall swings and beatifies the restrooms with an arbor and climbing plants. An ADA accessible ramp meanders through the playground into the tennis courts, flanked by seating walls and large boulders. It all adds up to more play along the way!

Make a permanent mark in the Park!

Buy a permanent personalized glass leaf for everyone in the family. These beautiful colored leaves will wrap around the playground's entry pillars, creating a unique display for donor recognition. Two sizes of custom glass leaves are available to acknowledge tax-deductible gifts from Eastlake neighbors, TOPS families and the entire extended community of Friends of Rogers Playground. Don't be left out! Great gift idea too! Each leaf sold directly helps the playground take root and grow.

Buy a small leaf for every child in your life!

Large leaves are perfect for a special message or longer family and business names.

Order your leaves by May 1, 2001 to ensure a place within the playground.

Supported by the Eastlake Community Council, TOPS Site Council and the Floating Home Association.

Fill out other side, detach and mail to:
Friends of Rogers Playground
117 East Louisa, PMB 453
Seattle, WA 98102
Yes! I want to help the playground grow.

I want to purchase ___ small leaves at $60 each and/or ___ large leaves at $200 each. Enclosed is my tax-deductible check made out to Seattle Community Council Federation/ECC-Rogers for $_______.

My leaf message is:

Small leaves $60
Up to two lines, 12 spaces each

Large leaves $200
Up to three lines, 20 spaces each

(For multiple leaves, please attach additional messages)

☐ Yes! I will join work parties to install and landscape next summer

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