The Eastlake News

Coming Events

Public meeting with open mike to dream about and discuss Eastlake priorities Tues., Jan. 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. See article, p. 9.

City Council open house to examine and comment on maps of proposed upzones for Eastlake and other District 4 neighborhoods Tues., Jan. 30, 6 to 8 p.m. at Hamilton International Middle School, 1610 N. 41st St. (in Wallingford). See article this page.

Public meeting on earthquakes and preparedness Wed., Jan. 31, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Agora Conference Center, 1551 Eastlake Ave. E. See article, p. 6.

Open house at the new Fire Station 22 Sat., Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 901 E. Roanoke St. See article, p. 9.

Public meeting on crime and its prevention in Eastlake Tues., Feb. 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. See article, p. 18.

City Council public hearing on proposed upzones for Eastlake and other District 4 neighborhoods Mon., Feb. 12, 6 p.m. at Eckstein Middle School, 3003 N.E. 75th St. (in Ravenna). See article this page.

Guest speaker Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands (State DNR) Tues., Feb. 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (note early starting time) at Agora Conference Center, 1551 Eastlake Ave. E. See article, p. 15.

Guest speaker City Councilmember Rob Johnson Tues., March 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. See article, p. 7.

Eastlake Egg Hunt and Fun Run Sat., March 31. 11 a.m. at Rogers Playfield (2500 Eastlake Ave.). See article, p. 4.

Jan. 30 and Feb. 12: Last opportunities to comment on proposed upzones for Eastlake

The City Council should delay its consideration of former Mayor Ed Murray’s proposed upzones (to allow bigger buildings in Eastlake and elsewhere) until resolution of a legal challenge by ECC and a coalition of other groups (see article on p. 2). The Council cannot legally vote on the measure until this challenge calling for more accurate analysis of the impacts is resolved.

Without the benefit of the better information that ECC believes the Hearing Examiner will require, the City Council has nevertheless scheduled two “final” events, among the last opportunities for Eastlakers to comment:

• City Council open house to examine and comment on maps of proposed upzones for Eastlake and other District 4 neighborhoods – Tues., Jan. 30, 6-8 p.m. at Hamilton International Middle School, 1610 N. 41st St. (in Wallingford)

• City Council Public Hearing on proposed upzones for Eastlake and other District 4 neighborhoods – Mon., Feb. 12, 6 p.m. at Eckstein Middle School, 3003 NE 75th St. (in Ravenna)

Whether or not you attend, please send in a public comment to the following addresses: council@seattle.gov; rob.johnson@seattle.gov; and jesseca.brand@seattle.gov; with a bcc to info@eastlakeseattle.org. But first, see important background below.

The City’s proposed zoning changes (called the “preferred alternative”) for Eastlake and other neighborhoods can be found at: http://seattle.gov/hala/about/mandatory-housing-affordability-(mha) or by searching on the web for “MHA zoning changes” (be sure you access the Nov. 2017 version). For independent background provided by the Eastlake Community Council, see http://eastlakeseattle.org/?page=HALA.
ECC in coalition to challenge city on impacts from increasing building heights – donations needed for legal costs

On Nov. 27, a coalition of 26 non-profit organizations including the Eastlake Community Council filed an administrative appeal to a Seattle Hearing Examiner, challenging a final environmental impact statement (EIS) by the Office of Planning and Community Development. Eastlake joined together with other neighborhood and community groups as SCALE (Seattle Coalition for Affordability, Livability, and Equity). We seek a ruling that the EIS does not accurately state the impacts on Eastlake and other neighborhoods of a proposal to the City Council to allow greater height and bulk for new buildings on multi-family zoned properties in exchange for claimed improvements in affordable housing.

ECC believes that the Seattle Hearing Examiner will agree that the EIS fails to accurately describe how the resulting upscale development will displace low and middle income people, destroy trees and historic structures, and cause traffic and parking problems, shortfalls in facilities and services, and other negative impacts. Since all of the residentially zoned land in Eastlake is classified as multi-family and would be up-zoned by the proposal, this case is a huge one for our future. [Although the City Council cannot vote on the measure until an accurate EIS has been produced, it is seeking public comments on the proposal unchanged, including at Jan. 30 and Feb. 12 events; see the accompanying article (p. 1 for details.)]

Links to the coalition’s appeal letter, to the EIS, and to other documents in the case can be found at http://web6.seattle.gov/Examiner/case/W-17-010. Cost of the appeal includes the attorneys (the well-regarded firm of Bricklin and Newman) and expert witnesses and could total up to $100,000.

Prior to the filing, ECC donated $500 to help make the appeal possible, and needs your help with additional donations. Please make checks made out to Eastlake Community Council, specifying in the memo line “MHA-EIS appeal”; mail or drop off to: ECC, c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102-3278. To donate on-line: http://www.seattlefairgrowth.org/feisdonate: specify that the donation is on behalf of the Eastlake Community Council. Background, including a list of the coalition partners, can also be found on that site. Please help!
Happy Holidays From Your Emerald City Classic

Known for its tahini-stuffed French toast, this "funky" Eastlake "hangout" also lures locals with its "interesting chalkboard specials"; the American fare makes for a "hearty", healthy and "inexpensive" breakfast or lunch, just "get there early on Sunday."

-ZAGAT

“First of all, the owner is on point. From front of the house to the back. She makes sure that the customers are taken care of. FACT: Old school Greeks run the best diners.”

-TYEP

**DAILY SPECIALS**
- famous cinnamon rolls
- omelettes and scrambles
- vegetarian dishes

**NOW SERVING**
- beer & wine
- mimosas
- the bloody terry
- the hangover

**EARLY BIRD SAVINGS**
MONDAY-THURSDAY, 7am to 9am
$2 OFF DAILY SPECIALS
**BOTTOMLESS LUNCH DEALS**
FRIES OR HOMEMADE CHIPS

Outdoor Espresso Bar.
We proudly serve Caffe Vita coffee at our tables and walk-up outside bar.
Stop by or stay a while!

JOIN US in Celebrating 25 YEARS in YOUR Neighborhood!
City tries to move goalposts when referee calls foul on repealing parking requirements for new buildings

On-street parking is no frill or luxury. It’s central to neighborhood safety and livability; to business success; and to mobility for children, seniors, the disabled, everyone. Eastlake’s 5000 residents and 5000 employees are among Seattle’s highest users of transit and bicycles. But many own, rent, or share a car, and need to park on the street at times, or even regularly. All have visitors or customers who arrive by vehicle and all receive deliveries and services by vehicle. Without on-street parking, our residents could not go about their lives, and our restaurants and other small businesses would suffer or fail.

Seattle’s Municipal Code long required on-site parking in new office, apartment, and condo buildings. But despite opposition from the Eastlake Community Council and other groups, recent mayors and the City Council have virtually repealed the on-site parking requirements in new buildings, waiving them near “frequent” bus routes—defined by SMC 23.84A.038 as “headways in at least one direction of 15 minutes or less for at least 12 hours per day, 6 days per week, and transit service headways of 30 minutes or less for at least 18 hours every day.” This poorly drawn law does not even require such service to be in both directions or round the clock.

The effort to waive on-site parking requirements stems from a misplaced effort to discourage car ownership, and it is not working. Contrary to claims that few residents of the new buildings will have cars, many do and are purchasing restricted parking zone (RPZ) stickers, which increasingly exceed the available on-street spaces. The imbalance of excess of parking demand over supply is hampering safety, livability and commerce for neighborhoods like Eastlake.

The result of the change in law is that none of the townhouse, apartment or condo buildings now going up in Eastlake have enough on-site parking—and some have none at all. It’s contrary to what City officials promise in their uncharacteristic passion for an unregulated market. They claim that builders will include in their projects enough on-site parking to meet the public interest. The reality is a “tragedy of the commons,” with on-street parking being sacrificed long term for a profitable free ride now. Having exited with their windfall, developers leave the neighborhood to reap the whirlwind of parking demand that fatally overmatches supply.

The Eastlake Community Council again sponsors an Egg Hunt and Fun Run for kids at Rogers Playfield (2500 Eastlake Ave.), this year on Sat., March 31. The Hunt starts promptly at 11 a.m., and the Run follows. Thank you to originator and coordinator Christy Elton, to Fleet Feet Sports Seattle for co-sponsoring the Run, to G&H Printing for help with publicity, and to many other donors.

A cash donation is welcome ($5 suggested; make out check to ECC and send to Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102; or on-line at http://eastlakeseattle.org). Volunteers are needed to assist the Bunny in preparations and in hiding the eggs that day. To help with anything or if you have questions, call 206-715-8762 or e-mail christy.elton@gmail.com and info@eastlakeseattle.org.
Waiving on-site parking requirements on the claim that Eastlake has “frequent” bus service ignores that Metro buses chronically fall short of demand, sometimes with no seats left once they get here, or entirely skip Eastlake stops because of a lack of standing room. There is, of course, no recourse once a project is built without parking, based on assumptions that bus service is better than it really is.

Last year in an administrative appeal brought against a project in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood, the City’s hearing examiner agreed with evidence (including some from Metro Transit’s own files) that the actual bus performance did not live up to what was on the schedules, and therefore was not “frequent.” But as appeal leader Irene Wall reported as guest speaker at ECC’s Oct. 17 public meeting, City regulators have not stopped waiving the on-site parking requirement. Now that their own referee has ruled against them, they are trying to move the goalposts.

Legislation is before the City Council that would loosen the definition of “frequent transit service” to 18 minute headways (contrary to Metro’s definition of 15 minutes); assume as “frequent” any route even if it is not (by putting it on an approved list that would be updated only once every two years); and satisfy any non-waived parking requirement with off-site spaces up to a quarter mile from the proposed building.

On Jan. 3, the City Council’s Planning, Land Use and Zoning Committee (chaired by Eastlake’s District 4 Councilmember Rob Johnson) unveiled this legislation. Written comments are urgently needed (see the City Council addresses on page 20), and public testimony can be offered at the committee’s Jan 17 meeting, at a February public hearing, and at the full City Council (see http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar for dates and agendas).

For independent analysis of the legislation, see http://livablephinney.org, where one can also donate to the legal expenses of the appeal that exposed the City’s misuse of the “frequent transit” designation. (See also the section on parking in ECC’s web site, http://eastlakeseattle.org.) Even if this issue has been settled by then, it will probably come up at ECC’s March 6 public meeting featuring Councilmember Johnson as guest speaker (see calendar on p. 1 and separate article on p. 7).
On earthquakes and how to prepare -- Jan. 31 public meeting at Agora Conference Center

Although earthquakes may be more frequent in California, turns out that our Big One will be bigger—and it’s overdue. The scary news on what could hit Washington and that we’re way behind in preparing got wide notice with Kathryn Schulz’s July 20/28, 2015 New Yorker articles, “The Really Big One” and “How to Stay Safe When the Big One Comes” (available on the web).

Three years later, what more have the scientists learned? Will the “Big One” be even bigger? Will it come without the slightest warning? To answer these and other questions, the Eastlake Community Council welcomes Bill Steele of UW’s Pacific NW Seismic Network for a presentation Wed., Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the Agora Conference Center, 1551 Eastlake Ave. E. Then about 8 p.m., we welcome Cindi Barker of Seattle Emergency Communications Hubs to speak on how to organize a neighborhood for whatever disaster is to come. For background from their two organizations, see http://pnsn.org/outreach and http://seattleemergencyhubs.org.

And whether or not you can come on Jan. 31, please make your home and the neighborhood safer from disasters. Every household and business should stockpile some emergency supplies (see web sites below for suggestions), and discuss preparations with neighbors. ECC wants to hear from you, and please let us know if you have a ham radio or satellite phone, or if you’re a doctor, nurse, or paramedic. Rogers Playground is one Eastlake gathering and helping place in a disaster.

Great background, pointers, and signups for free trainings are available from the Seattle Police Department’s Emergency Management Division (phone is 206-233-7123). Find its web site by searching for “Seattle emergency management.” If you’ve taken one of the trainings or plan to, please let ECC know, so you’re in the loop on other preparedness efforts. Also: familiarize yourself with Seattle Fire Station 22, at 901 E. Roanoke Street (just east of I-5); it will definitely be a resource in any disaster. A great time to visit is the open house this Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For details, see calendar (p. 1) and article on p. 9.

For more info and links, and to get involved, see http://eastlakeseattle.org/?page=emergency on the ECC web site. And please contact ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org.
City councilmember Rob Johnson speaks at March 6 public meeting

Rob Johnson was elected in 2015 to represent Eastlake and nearby neighborhoods in the newly created City Council district 4. In addition to chairing the City Council’s planning, land use, and zoning committee, he is vice-chair of its sustainability and transportation committee.

Councilmember Johnson is the Eastlake Community Council’s guest at a public meeting on Tues., March 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. A particular focus of the meeting will be traffic, parking, pedestrians, bicycles, and transit. King County Metro bus and Seattle Department of Transportation representatives will also be there to answer questions.

While Councilmember Johnson has been a prominent advocate for the Mayor’s proposed upzones to allow large buildings in Eastlake and other neighborhoods, please note that your comments on this topic are solicited at a Jan. 30 City Council open house and a Feb. 12 City Council hearing that Johnson’s office is organizing; see calendar (p. 1) and article on p. 1.

Over the past year, the Eastlake Community Council has requested Johnson’s help on various issues, among them to improve Metro bus service through Eastlake; to overcome the continuing two-year delay in obtaining SDOT review of the Fairview Green Street concept plan that ECC submitted in January 2016 after years of public process; and to rethink the Fairview Avenue North bridge project to save millions and avoid blocking traffic, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. For background on these topics, see various sections on the ECC web site, http://eastlakeseattle.org.

Recently Councilmember Johnson has been in the news for his advocacy for reducing parking supply as a means to reduce car ownership and increase use of public transit. See the article on p. 4 about legislation that would remove requirements for on-site parking in new buildings in Eastlake and other neighborhoods that are said to have “frequent transit service.”

Please join ECC in welcoming Councilmember Johnson, his staff, and the SDOT and Metro representatives to Eastlake. Whether or not you can come on March 6, please send your suggested questions to ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org.

Wanted: Graphic Designer for the Newsletter

This is a volunteer position with the Eastlake Community Council. Design and reinvent the Eastlake News and/or create a web version based on material provided -- ads, stories, sketches and photos. Must know InDesign. Please contact ECC with statement of interest and qualifications: info@eastlakeseattle.org
Interstate 5 was built in 1962 before environmental laws or noise regulations, without any thought to blocking or preventing noise; in fact, the Ship Canal Bridge perfectly reflects noise downward and outward, as if it had been designed to do so. Result: some Eastlake businesses, residences, sidewalks, and parks have the worst noise levels in the state. From the Eastlake Community Council’s founding in 1971, we have worked to reduce this noise, with a first major success being the current noise walls.

The last noise wall construction ended in 2008 despite WSDOT’s acknowledgment at the time that the worst noise locations were not yet addressed. The noise walls on the west side of I-5 don’t extend north even to Hamlin Street. ECC, working with nearby residents and businesses and with State Sen. Jamie Pedersen and his House colleagues, turned this situation around.

In 2015 the governor, a Republican Senate and a Democratic House set aside $3.5 million for completing Eastlake’s noise walls for the two blocks almost to Allison Street. But the legislation did not slate construction to begin until the summer of 2025. That would be too long a wait for those who suffer most, while WSDOT spends billions now on expanding SR-520, bringing further I-5 traffic and noise.

The recent switchover in control of the state Senate to the Democratic Party poses some hope of building Eastlake’s missing noise walls much earlier. Here’s hoping that Eastlake’s state legislators—all Democrats—will use their new-found power to make this happen.

The governor and our legislators can also help in addressing I-5 Ship Canal Bridge noise, which is the highest from any freeway. After a pilot project a few years ago in which ECC participated, WSDOT concluded that it cannot install meaningful noise barriers on the bridge. Most are heavier than it can safely bear, and even the lightest would catch the wind, risking a catastrophic collapse.

The only remaining solution to the noise that comes from the I-5 Ship Canal Bridge is to produce less to start with. In 2013, at ECC’s request, our state legislators asked WSDOT to consider these noise-reducing operational changes in bridge traffic: (1) close the express lanes earlier (10 p.m. rather than the current 11 p.m.); (2) open the express lanes later (5:30 a.m. or 6 a.m. rather than the current 5 a.m.); (3) reduce express lane speeds on the bridge and approaches, such as to 40 miles per hour; and (4) exclude trucks and motorcycles from the bridge express lanes, at least at night.

WSDOT rejected all four of these proposals, but our state legislators asked it to reconsider. The Eastlake Community Council appreciates their continued efforts on the neighborhood’s behalf. Perhaps Gov. Inslee will also intervene.

Whatever your views, our elected officials need to hear from you about the above issues. E-mail to our state senator (jamie.pedersen@leg.wa.gov) and our state representatives (frank.chopp@leg.wa.gov and nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov); comment on-line to Gov. Jay Inslee (http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact); or write to any of them by U.S. mail. ECC would be grateful for a copy, to info@eastlakeseattle.org, where you can also send questions and ideas. For background, including ECC’s correspondence with various officials, see http://eastlakeseattle.org/?page=noise.
Jan. 23 public meeting with open mike to dream about and discuss Eastlake priorities

In this popular format, all comers can have some time at the “open mike” to discuss their preferred neighborhood needs/issues/questions, or react to others. Please speak up, or hear your neighbors out, on [your topic, or theirs, here]. The meeting is Tues., Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. Can’t come? Please send your questions and thoughts to ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org.

School crossing guards needed

The Seattle Public Schools system invites applications for the part-time position of crossing guard at TOPS-Seward School and many other schools. Payment is hourly, starting at $15. The job involves standing for extended periods of time (in all types of weather) at intersections and roads, in order to help students safely cross to and from school. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and be mature, caring, and safety minded. Must have at least a High School diploma, GED, or equivalent, and submit to a criminal justice fingerprint and background check. Interested applicants should contact Yvonne Carpenter, Field Staff Lead, ylcarpenter@seattleschools.org or 206-252-0907.

Seattle Fire Department holds open house at the new Station 22

Still located at 901 E. Roanoke St. (just east of I-5), the recently reopened Seattle Fire Station 22 has been moved slightly because of the SR-520 reconstruction, and in doing so it was expanded and dramatically improved, adding new public art using actual fire hoses. Your first chance to tour the new facility is Sat., Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be plenty of information about fire safety and emergency preparedness, activities for children and, of course, the chance to view the fire engines up close. See also the article on page 6 about the Jan. 31 public meeting dealing with earthquakes and emergency preparedness.

Snow and Eagles in Eastlake

Eastlaker, Korah Stejskal, posted this Christmas day snow scene on the Eastlake Social Club Facebook page, and an eagle-eyed neighbor spotted an eagle in it. After some confusion in finding the eagle in the picture, it turned out there were actually two eagles in it. The two had been noted earlier in the week on Facebook as hunting lakeside.

A version of this story first appeared on the Lake Union Watershed blog site Dec. 27.
The Eastlake Community Council thanks Lake Union Mail, Pete’s Super, and Washington State Employees Credit Union for hosting donation barrels (in place until Jan. 16) for ECC’s annual drive for the University District Food Bank. ECC also thanks Champagne Cruises (1611 Fairview Ave. E., www.champagnecruise.com) for use of its historic icebreaker the Islander in the Dec. 23 Eastlake holiday cruise. Many food bank donations were also collected at that event.

And ECC thanks Otter Bar and Burger for co-sponsoring our Sept. 26 celebration, and Eastlake Bar and Grill, Pecado Bueno, Mammoth, Pomodoro, Sebi’s Bistro, 14 Carrot Café, Siam on Eastlake, Louisa’s, and Pazzo’s for previously hosting the event. At the popular twice-annual celebration, ECC purchases “small bites” for the public, the restaurant offers extended “happy hour” prices, and dining continues off the regular menu. ECC welcomes inquiries from other restaurants to host its upcoming celebrations.

Please help the Eastlake Community Council make and keep this neighborhood a wonderful place to live, work, or play. See our web site at http://eastlakeseattle.org for background and for opportunities to volunteer, to purchase a membership, or to donate needed cash or in-kind items.

Mention here does not imply endorsement by the ECC, writer (Chris Leman), or editor. To submit news items, for questions or to volunteer: info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102, or (206) 322-5463.

Estella and Forest Berg (shown here with their father Gershom, last spring during warmer weather!) help him deliver the Eastlake News to their very long block. Forest also puts up most of ECC’s posters. Their uncle Isaiah is ECC’s Vice President, and their aunt Elizabeth writes for the Eastlake News. Thank you to this public-spirited family!
Does Rogers Playground need lights and artificial turf?

Rogers Playground has been among Eastlake’s favorite spaces from when it opened in 1908 as one of Seattle’s earliest City parks. Generations of children have enjoyed its wonderful play equipment. The tennis courts, baseball field, and soccer field are heavily used. The park has the most large trees and the only public restroom in the neighborhood. Rogers Playground is also a designated gathering point for mutual aid in an emergency.

Seattle’s early onset of darkness during half the year has always limited recreational uses in the park, while enabling illicit uses. Lights would improve safety and expand the hours in which to enjoy the play equipment, tennis court, and sports fields. Lighting design would tailor brightness to the use, and minimize spillover to outside the park. Nothing would be done without a lighting design study and public process such as the Park Department’s recent Cal Anderson Park Lighting Study (available by web search).

Another step that could make Rogers Playground more useful year-round is the addition of artificial turf in some places. The 1962 construction of Interstate 5 seems to have forced groundwater closer to the surface, flooding many Eastlake basements and worsening this park’s drainage. Improvements that the Park Department installed in the 1990s were only partially successful in solving the Rogers drainage problem. During Seattle’s rainy season the natural turf is so soggy that it is damaged by any use and sometimes must be closed—a prohibition unfortunately ignored by some visitors.

A substantial portion of the turf damage at Rogers Playground is by off-leash dog use. Entirely illegal anywhere in the park, it nevertheless occurs in all months and seems to have increased in recent years. Dog owners are encouraged to get involved in ECC’s efforts to improve the off-leash area at the I-5 Colonnade Open Space.

As outlined above, the Eastlake Community Council is considering asking the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to study the addition of lighting and artificial turf for Rogers Playground. ECC welcomes your comment, to info@eastlakeseattle.org.

You can now find Eastlake Community Council on Facebook. Find out the latest news about the ECC and become a fan by clicking Like on our Page.
The Famous Cornerstones of Eastlake

by Elizabeth Berg

Rotifers, fungi, terrestrial crustaceans, aquatic cousins of earthworms... Our tiny neighbors help to filter our air, water and metabolize hazardous other organisms and bacteria from the water. They provide food for fish, fauna and birds. They are linked to you, and to you and your community’s well-being. Embedded in the concrete intersections in Eastlake are Stacy Levy’s Cornerstones (1997). They were created to remind Eastlakers of the “environment that you walk through, interact with,” says Levy, and its importance – and fragility.

You see them every time you find yourself at an intersection in Eastlake: tiny organisms illustrated in scientific detail, etched into the sidewalk, adorned with colorful, opaque, glass-like stamps. Names such as rotifers, fungi, terrestrial crustaceans, aquatic cousins of earthworms identify each organism. A compass with a rose sits in each one, delicately reminding Eastlakers of their marine roots. One of Seattle’s most beloved art works is underfoot in Eastlake.

Artist Stacy Levy won the commission to do Cornerstones through a nationwide competition. She flew back and forth from her rural home in Pennsylvania to Seattle to work on the project, which was funded largely by Seattle’s one percent for the arts program, from the Seattle Public Utilities Sewer Outflow Project that once tore up our neighborhood’s streets; additional funds came from Seattle’s Neighborhood Matching Fund. Since that time, other public and private funds have ensured maintenance of Cornerstones, and the addition of some beyond the 32 originally installed in 1997 (even today, more could be added with sufficient funds). The Eastlake Community Council and its members (among them Lynn Poser, Robert Rudine, and the late Susan Kaufman) has long partnered on the project with Levy and the Seattle Arts Commission. The Cornerstones are an official part of the City of Seattle’s public art collection.

East Coaster Levy approached the project as if she were a local. She worked closely with Eastlake residents, collaborated with a UW zoologist, and studied the fauna and microorganisms in the area. The pieces on the Lake Union side intersections of Eastlake Avenue are of aquatic microorganisms and the ones on the land side are of the terrestrial variety. Words identify the cross streets, while in the center of each are sandblasted the images of a microscopic creature that floats, swims, or crawls in Eastlake.

Levy is an environmental artist. She creates sculptures (see many examples at http://stacylevy.com) that blend harmoniously into the environment in which they are built. By simply existing, they aid the environment surrounding them, and the humans it serves, in some necessary function. Levy’s work reflects a scientific understanding of how engineering and art marry to enhance an environment. Her art educates people about the environments that they move through—environments that are always changing but essential to our survival.

Tide Flowers (Hudson River, NY 2006), are large brightly colored petals attached to buoys. As the tide in the river changes depth, so do the flowers, opening at high tide and closing at low tide. City dwellers near the Hudson are thus connected to the moon, the tides, the ocean, and the water surrounding them. Straw Garden (Seattle Center, 2012) celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Space Needle, mixing materials from the modern practices of restoration and erosion control with the layout of historic baroque gardens. Netted, cylindrical bundles of straw and coconut fiber were planted with species of plants natural to this biome; when the temporary six-month installation concluded, ECC volunteers and Lake Union Drydock moved some of them to Eastlake to help restore our neighborhood’s shoreline.

“We have neighbors we don’t even think about – even in an urban neighborhood,” Levy says. Cornerstones brings awareness to our invisible neighbors: “Nature is pervasive; cement, glass and people show nature in urban areas,” says Levy: “...lots of life forms: pollen, spores, there is tons of stuff living everywhere. We forget and only remember ‘Grand Tetons’ nature.”

Levy’s current project on the Schuylkill River in PA bridges people and water. The river is famous for its industrial and urban uses, but generally unsafe to get in, or even be close to. Levy is building “rooms” in which people can safely view the water and the tides that shift the water level six feet every day. She considers it extremely important for people – especially city people – to connect with nature. To empty out the mind and view the environment that supports the strong yet fragile ecosystems existing around them.

Recalling her Cornerstones project, Levy says “I simply adored working in Eastlake…a very supportive community.” It was her first publicly funded arts project. She feels Eastlake helped launch her career, leading to many other commissioned works and national acclaim. Our neighborhood is proud to host this groundbreaking work to be enjoyed by visitors and locals for many generations to come, a reminder of the urban environments we move through every day and their many hidden, natural layers. (Pssst! There is a Geocache puzzle attached to the Cornerstones.) For more: http://stacylevy.com/cornerstones.
Some of Seattle's most beloved art is underfoot.

Left: Four of the 32 Cornerstones installed at Eastlake intersections.

Above: Straw Garden at Seattle Center in 2012. Center: from left are Artist Stacy Levy, unidentified, Lake Union Drydock Vice President Jim Francis, ECC volunteer Joey Baumgartner. Below: Volunteers install some of the Straw Garden artifacts along Lake Union for erosion control and shoreline restoration (2012).
“Go back to Mexico!”

By Yvonne Sanchez

“Go back to Mexico!” The old man standing on his deck glared down at me.

I was in Bellingham with others marching in support of farmworkers hoping to negotiate better terms for the field work they were performing. I had walked towards the old man to ask permission to deposit my “doggie bag” into the dumpster standing alongside the driveway leading to the garage of his house. So there was no mistaking his command was aimed at me. Me—born in this country, in Texas; me—whose parents were also born in this country;—whose maternal grandmother was half-Ysleta Indian from Ysleta, Texas;—whose paternal grandmother was Apache Indian born in Clifton, Arizona. Yes, my paternal grandfather was from Zacatecas, Mexico. Yes, my maternal grandfather was Irish via San Francisco. But all this old Anglo man saw was a Mexican…an “illegal alien.”

My mother’s brothers used to joke, “We didn’t cross the border, the border crossed us!”

Decades later I learned they were referring to President Polk’s unprovoked war against Mexico, motivated by his belief in our country’s Manifest Destiny. Even during President Polk’s tenure, some called the Mexican-American War “The Wicked War.” As a result of the wicked war Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas, became part of the United States. The people who had been Mexican citizens became Indians moved to Reservations or Mexican-Americans, second-class citizens of the United States. And I understood what my uncles had been saying.

Today we have another President who in laying bare a deep sense of disenfranchisement among rust belt workers has stirred ethnic and racial prejudices that declare some, as a separate race, are special, with a destiny manifest under God entitling them to special status above others.

I am reminded that President Polk served only one term because he lost the vote for a second term. This gives me hope.

Hope is what I’ve needed after realizing what I thought was an unfamiliar SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, was in fact, upon reflection, a sadness accumulated over the past year, and that experience in Bellingham, of hearing diatribes against Mexicans being rapists, rantings about illegal aliens, drug dealers, murderers…I have had to admit the personal toll the Donald Trump Harangues have had. Hearing Muslims are terrorists, LGBTQ are aberrations, women are wrong to seek safe birth control and abortions…. The ripple impact of his diatribes on those feeling disenfranchised and seeking scapegoats for their troubles were spilling over not only on me, but on others who like me have become scapegoats.

My mother used to say I was a Pollyanna. Still, I worried how federal court judgements, left vacant because of Congress’ refusal to consider Obama appointments, were now being filled. I worried about current commitments to separation of church and state. But with that optimism my mother saw in me I greeted the results of recent national local elections. People were pushing back by running for office, by voting. A diversity of candidates became elected public officials because enough “ordinary” people were saying, enough is enough!

That afternoon in Bellingham I started to walk away from the old man glaring down at me from his deck. But then I stopped. I turned around and took three steps towards the old man. A look of concern crossed his face. Looking up at him, I said, “I want you to know that I was born in this country, my mother and father were born in this country. My father flew in a B-17 during WWII fighting for the values of this country imbedded in our Constitution.”

Before I turned to continue marching for the rights of farmworkers, I saw a look of astonished surprise on his face. And I hoped that what I saw meant he would think at least twice before again accusing and defaming others as the leader of this country has so flagrantly done.
Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands and head of the state’s Department of Natural Resources, is the Eastlake Community Council’s guest at a public meeting Tues., Feb. 20. Note the unusual time and location: 6-8 p.m. at the Agora Conference Center, 1551 Eastlake Ave. E.

Washington’s Department of Natural Resources manages 3 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, and commercial lands and 2.6 million acres of aquatic areas including shorelines, tidelands, lands under Puget Sound and navigable lakes and rivers.

Almost two-thirds of the $200 million in annual revenues generated by DNR go to local public schools, with the rest to county governments, ports, fire districts, public hospitals, the Capitol campus, state colleges and universities and other state institutions.

DNR’s Wildfire Division operates the state’s largest on-call fire department, and coordinates with and provides resources to local fire districts. Other DNR divisions regulate private forest practices, monitor environmental restoration and mine cleanup, and provide scientific information about earthquakes, landslides, and ecologically sensitive areas.

As can be seen on its web site (http://dnr.wa.gov), DNR focuses largely on rural issues and beneficiaries, although it also manages most of the land under Lake Union, and plenty of state land that is on shore. The agency’s impact on Eastlake and the urban environment is often overlooked by the public and by DNR itself.

Seattle leases generate many of DNR’s leasing revenues, but our city and Lake Union in particular receive few of the funds in return, such as for the improvement of public access to the shoreline. DNR has more power than any other state or local agency to regulate seaplane uses on Lake Union and Portage Bay, but it has done little with that power except to allow seaplane traffic to grow without apparent limit (see the ECC web site, http://eastlakeseattle.org/?page=seaplanes).

At the Feb. 20 event, Commissioner Franz will present initial remarks and respond to questions. Whether or not you can come, please send any questions to ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org.

What do you value about Eastlake?

Periodically, the Eastlake Community Council conducts surveys of public opinion. When the question was, “If you left Eastlake, where would you likely move?” one resident joked (we think), “Into an urn.” That was in 1985, but it’s a fair guess that today the responses would show as much love for the neighborhood, and as much humor. What do you value about living or working in Eastlake? Please send us your thoughts and/or photos to info@eastlakeseattle.org; they may be printed in a future Eastlake News. And see the back page for volunteer opportunities to sustain Eastlake and make it better.
The October 8 police gunshots in Eastlake

By David Huber

Police work in Seattle’s neighborhoods is significant. For me, it became more vivid on October 8, 2017 when Joy, my wife of 37 years (and fellow ECC volunteer since 1990) came to pick me up from a course I took in Fremont that evening. She was oddly serious. After “Hellos” she said there had been gunshots in an alley and on a street just a few yards from our home.

Joy tried to relate what had happened. Shocking! She had been in our home with family and friends on that Sunday night. Then, sudden gunshots—twenty or so, rapid-fire. “It sounded like they were in our yard, or inside our home!” The shock waves of shots ripped the space. I was stunned even hearing of it. But for those living through it (including hundreds of other neighbors and passersby)? It felt like a war zone to them.

We drove to our corner. It was a scene we had not seen before in Eastlake. Our street, loaded with police cruisers, vans, uniformed and plainclothes officers. Police lights saturated the night. It was blocked off in yellow crime-scene tape. A crime scene investigation was in progress.

In our home, two 6-year old girls, a boy of 4, a girl of 13, three of their parents and the grandmother had been crouched under a table in fear for nearly two hours, wondering when it would end. Will the danger pass? Is worse yet to come? Who shot those guns? Are they coming for us? Should we try to escape? Where are the police?

We later learned there were two people stealing a parked car in the alley and trying to escape up East Lynn Street. Two officers, who say they believed that the rapidly backing car was trying to run over them, drew weapons and fired up to 20 times, as the thieves escaped in the stolen vehicle. The Police Department’s brief initial account on http://spdblottie.seattle.gov states: “Officers were dispatched to the 2200 block of Yale Avenue East for a report of suspicious activity possibly involving a weapon. When officers arrived they found the suspects sitting in a black Subaru Impreza. As officers approached the car the suspects attempted to strike the officers with the vehicle. Officers opened fire possibly striking the vehicle. The sus-

Translation: I went to Athena’s house to play. We went up to her room. She sang really loudly. Suddenly, Athena’s Dad rushed up, saying that there were gunshots. He took her, and Mom took me, we quickly went downstairs. The lights were off, and we were asked to be quiet. It was very dark. They all whispered quietly. I was very scared. I snuggled close to Mom near the center of the house. I wanted to go to bathroom, but did not dare to. Athena’s Mom called 911, and Mom called grandma and grandpa. After a long while, Athena’s Dad went outside to check. There were people walking on streets, so Mom thought that it would be fine for us to go home. Mom and I rushed back home. I ran to bathroom. I went to bed. I could not fall asleep for a long long time. I was afraid that some one is hiding back somewhere, ready to fire gun shots.
I love living in Eastlake. I have been an Eastlake Community Council member and a lawyer practicing in Seattle for 27 years. During that time I have seen a gradual increase in law enforcement issues that deserve our attention.

The City of Seattle requires the Police Department to investigate the use of force, including any gunfire, by its officers. An investigation is now underway regarding the Oct. 8 police gunshots. City policies discourage the use of police gunfire against escaping vehicles when innocent bystanders could be at risk. But the two officers who discharged their guns also apparently felt that their own lives were in danger. The investigation will assess these claims, and whether they fired their weapons according to responsible procedures.

The investigation and the lessons drawn from it must weigh the risks of police gunfire to those nearby, in balance to any benefits to the uses of this gunfire. There is the risk of injury or death, and also of psychological trauma. When and where should officers fire shots? At what point should risks to innocents outweigh the justification for police to shoot? Should any changes be made in policies on use of police gunfire, or in the training and development of our police? Such questions and concerns need to be addressed as the Police Department and the community draw lessons from the police gunshots of October 8.

The Eastlake News will report further on this case. Others who experienced this incident or who have thoughts about it are encouraged to write to info@eastlakeseattle.org.

West Precinct Advisory Council report

by David Huber

I love living in Eastlake. I have been an Eastlake Community Council member and a lawyer practicing in Seattle for 27 years. During that time I have seen a gradual increase in law enforcement issues that deserve our attention.

This is a big thank you to ECC for giving me an opportunity to help with this discussion by appointing me recently as its representative to the Seattle Police Department’s West Precinct Advisory Council (WestPac). In that role I am working to represent the concerns of Eastlake’s residents and its businesses. I hope to give the neighborhood good value from these efforts.

The several communities served by the West Precinct meet monthly to be informed, to inform, and to stay in community, in cooperation, in communication. This is a space to establish relationships, for communities to participate in a real way with the dedicated women and men serving with the Seattle Police Department.

The WestPac meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. The opportunity of serving in this role was worth the early morning change of patterns for me. I will submit occasional reports to the Eastlake News so you can know what I learn through my work on the West Precinct Advisory Council.

At the Oct. 11 WestPac meeting we learned many details...
Meet with Police Dept. on public safety issues on Feb. 6

In the continuing effort to keep our neighborhood safe, the Eastlake Community Council hosts Seattle Police Department representatives to meet with the public on Tues., Feb. 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. As the first speaker, ECC welcomes Officer Donald Little, who is newly assigned as the West Precinct’s Community Police Team representative to Eastlake and South Lake Union.

ECC thanks Officer Samuel Cook (Little’s predecessor in this position, and who has now returned to patrol) for his years of dedication and effectiveness in addressing public safety needs in Eastlake. The Community Police Team are uniformed officers who work with residents and businesses on crime prevention, developing enforcement priorities, and follow-up on crime problems—tasks that regular patrol officers have little time for.

As the second speaker, we welcome Barb Biondo, newly assigned as the West Precinct’s Community Police Team in discussion of Eastlake policing needs and issues. She replaces the recently retired Terrie Johnston, who greatly assisted the Eastlake neighborhood on these matters for many years; thanks and best wishes, Terrie!

A final segment of the Feb. 6 public meeting will be a presentation from the interdepartmental Navigation Team, which City officials established in early 2017 to humanely address situations in which homeless encampments impinge on public health and other public uses. Specialists from different departments provide aid and connections, including for those with mental illness or substance abuse issues.

ECC’s website has a public safety page, http://eastlake-seattle.org/?page=publicsafety with much background and links. Following are some highlights.

**Enforcement priorities for Eastlake.** Since 2015, the Seattle Police Department has partnered with neighborhoods on “micro community policing plans.” The West Precinct now meets at least every six months with Eastlake stakeholders to update law enforcement priorities. The current priorities for Eastlake (posted on the ECC web site at http://eastlake-seattle.org/publicsafety) include: burglaries; car prowls/auto thefts; issues related to the homeless population (encampments, public intoxication, needles, etc.); and traffic (cut-through traffic, speeding around TOPS-Seward school). SPD welcomes suggestions for revisions of these priorities, such as at the Feb. 6 public meeting, or anytime to donald.little@seattle.gov or 206-684-8996; please cc ECC at info@eastlake-seattle.org.

**Importance of calling 911.** The Police Department’s increased reliance on data in deploying and evaluating its efforts makes it more important than ever to call 911 when you see or experience any law-breaking or if you expect it to occur imminently. Police can’t respond or plan if you don’t alert them to a problem. They are more likely to patrol a neighborhood with a pattern of past calls to 911.

Nothing is too small to report, and a crime need not have been committed. In Eastlake some brazen large-scale thefts have occurred in broad daylight, and some small thefts have been repeated because no one thought to call 911. These calls can be anonymous, but it’s best to give your name (you can ask that it be withheld from public disclosure) so you can monitor the response. There is a record made of each call; if you plan to request the record, ask the call-taker for the event number.

The 911 system has plenty of capacity, so don’t worry about competing with another call that you fear is more

---

West Precinct Advisory Council report

continued from page 17

of “Police Body Cameras” and the West Precinct pilot project for them. It is not a simple issue. We also greeted the new Precinct Captain and other new members of the team at the station.

At WestPac’s second meeting, Nov. 15, we spoke about the social phenomenon of homelessness. That issue is one that has the police in search of good solutions. It offers many more complaints than solutions. There is work to be done.

I will report to the neighborhood about future WestPac meetings. I hope that one of these meetings will include discussion of the Police Department’s policies for when officers should shoot their guns. Many in Eastlake were alarmed by rapid police gunfire that occurred on Oct. 8, myself included (see article, p. 16).

I respect everyone in this work; police, community members with homes, and with not-home-homes. I’m looking for solutions about guns, homes, accountability, and matters of governing ourselves in communities. I want to help engage members of our community toward solving our common problems.

Do you have suggestions, concerns or questions about Seattle Police activities? Please send them to the Eastlake Community Council at info@eastlaceattle.org so that I can possibly bring them up at a meeting of the WestPac.

Of course, the West Precinct Advisory Council is just one of several avenues to address such topics. The ECC president can write a letter to a Police Department official or to one or more Seattle elected officials. And many topics are best addressed through ongoing discussion with the West Precinct’s Community Police Team. See article on this page an upcoming ECC public meeting that hosts this Team in discussion of Eastlake policing needs and issues.
urgent. The operators have the skill and technology to refer your call. An alternative to 911 is the non-emergency number, 206-625-5011 (then dial 2 and then 8 to reach a dispatcher). It’s for something suspicious but you’re not sure it’s criminal; for late reporting of a non-emergency crime with no suspects nearby; or to report noise or parking infractions. Please don’t leave unreported any crime or suspicious situation, or Eastlake will lose the Police Department’s attention.

**Neighbor-to-neighbor cooperation.** Your block or dock will be safest by preparing together. Please share phone numbers, e-mail addresses, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram accounts, and get to know one another for mutual alerts and problem-solving about suspicious or risky situations. Block watch doesn’t have to involve a whole block; there’s safety in cooperation of even a few residences or businesses, nearby houseboats or liveaboards, or within an apartment, condo, or office building. For more: http://www.seattle.gov/police/programs/Blockwatch/default.htm.

**Door-to-door solicitors.** Have doubts about someone who has knocked on your door? Don’t open it, but do let them know you’re there, to avert a break-in. It’s unlawful for solicitors to ignore a sign like “no agents,” or “no solicitors,” or refuse to leave immediately if requested. There are reputable solicitors, but others wish to gain illegal access, so be wary of requests to use the bathroom, phone or for a drink of water. Call 911 if you feel threatened, or if a suspicious solicitor has left who may jeopardize others. And pass along an alert to your neighbors in any way you can. Commercial sellers are required to have a license with the name of the agent and type of product or service sold; they must disclose their name, company, and what they’re selling (these requirements don’t apply to non-profit solicitors). It’s unlawful to falsely claim to represent a business or non-profit group.

**Lighting.** Better lit streets and alleys will reduce car prowls and other crimes. Please contact ECC with your suggestions for the locations of any new street lights.

**Report graffiti.** Quick removal of graffiti discourages taggers. Seattle requires landowners to remove it promptly, and promises immediate action on public property. Report graffiti (and water pollution and illegal dumping) at 206-684-7587 or http://www.seattle.gov/util/index.htm. To join ECC’s effort against graffiti: info@eastlakeseattle.org and frisky1@mindspring.com.

ECC wants to hear your ideas and questions about crime issues and prevention: info@eastlakeseattle.org or by U.S. mail at 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278.
How to contact the Mayor and Council

Whatever your views on the various issues addressed in this newsletter, it is important to exercise your rights as a citizen by communicating with our elected Mayor and City Councilmembers. And please send a blind copy to the Eastlake Community Council at info@eastlakeseattle.org. Doing so alerts ECC to your concerns so we can keep you informed and involved about follow-up.

Unlike her predecessor, Mayor Jenny Durkan accepts comments from the public by e-mail (jenny.durkan@seattle.gov). You can also reach her by letter at 600 Fourth Avenue, 7th floor, P.O. Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124-4749, or by fax at 206-684-5360. The Mayor’s reception phone is 206-684-4000.

You can send a message to all nine City Councilmembers at once with this address: council@seattle.gov. However, it is always better to communicate with each City Councilmember individually (and not by one e-mail that uses all nine addresses!). The City Council e-mail addresses are as follows: sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov, teresa.mosqueda@seattle.gov, rob.johnson@seattle.gov, bruce.harrell@seattle.gov, lisa.herbold@seattle.gov, mike.obrien@seattle.gov, lorenagonzalez@seattle.gov, debora.juarez@seattle.gov, and kshama.sawant@seattle.gov.

You can also reach the City Councilmembers by letter at 600 Fourth Avenue, 2nd floor, P.O. Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025, or by fax at 206-684-8587. (A signed letter may actually be noticed more than an e-mail.) Each Councilmember also has a voice mail number listed at http://seattle.gov/council or by calling 206-684-8888.

Become an ECC Member and/or Make a Donation

The Eastlake Community Council is volunteer, so dues and donations go a long way, and your involvement is welcome and needed.

____________________________________
name(s)
____________________________________
street address or PO box
____________________________________
city, state, zip code
phone: _______________________________
e-mail: _______________________________
____________________________________

□ Household Membership $35
□ Student / Senior / Low Income Membership $10
□ Business Membership $75
□ Donation $______

Today's date: _____________________

Please send this form with a check made out to ECC to:
ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278

Or you may join and pay by credit or debit card or just volunteer at http://eastlakeseattle.org

For questions: info@eastlakeseattle.org or (206) 322-5463.

Be a cornerstone for your community

We invite you to check off one or more interests (need not be a member or donor to volunteer):

□ Events and fundraising
□ Help with web site, database, social media, or video
□ Art walk or public art
□ Parks and open spaces
□ Traffic and parking issues
□ Bus/transit service
□ Review building proposals or legislation
□ Crime prevention or emergency preparedness
□ Neighborhood history or photography
□ Door-to-door newsletter distribution

The Eastlake Community Council membership is open to all who live, work, or own property in Eastlake.