

The

EASTLAKE • NEWS

February / March 2003

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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Linda Furney and her three-year-old Enzo playing tether ball by TOPS-Seward School, just three blocks from their home. Under the School District's current assignment policies, Enzo has almost no chance of ever attending this public school.

ECC's general meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25 in the TOPS-Seward Library will begin with a segment (7-8 p.m.) to inform parents who live in our area on the limited public school choices that their kindergarten to eighth grade children face, and what can be done to improve them. For the last several years, few kindergarteners living in Eastlake, Portage Bay, Roanoke Park, and North Capitol Hill have been admitted to any nearby public schools. The neighborhood's attractiveness to young families surprised the School District, which had reduced the nearby public school slots available to almost nothing, based on an underestimate of the children in this area who will be in need of a slot.

Parents and neighbors have formed REACH ("Restoring Equal Access to Choice"), and the coalition is working with the School Board and Superintendent to eliminate what is, in effect, mandatory busing, and restore to our children the same opportunities enjoyed by those in other neighborhoods. The REACH e-mail is schoolchoice@hotmail.com, and web site is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/R-E-A-Ch/>.

Local families have no geographic priority if they wish to send their children to a nearby public school, because TOPS-Seward assignments are by a citywide lottery, and the other nearby local public schools are too full to take them. Without a meaningful chance of sending their children to a nearby public school, young families are leaving our neighborhood, or ruling it out as a place to move.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUES. FEB 18: **Fairview Green Street Planning Meeting**, 7 p.m., TOPS-Seward School Conference Room, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.

TUES. FEB. 25: **ECC General Meeting** featuring two topics - **The Crisis in Public School Assignments** (7-8 p.m.) & **Park Planning Under I-5** (8-9 p.m.), TOPS-Seward School Library

WED. MARCH 26: **ECC General Meeting - An Evening with P-I Cartoonist Dave Horsey**, 7 p.m., TOPS-Seward School Library

SUNDAY, MAY 4: **Rededication of Lynn Street Park**, 2 p.m.

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PLANNING BEGINS ON THE PRO PARKS FUNDED I-5 OPEN SPACE PROJECT

(A NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF SEATTLE)

Seattle Parks and Recreation is launching an effort to design and construct improvements beneath a portion of I-5 in Eastlake. This project was included in the \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy approved by voters in November 2000. The Levy includes \$1.8 million to improve the area under I-5 in Eastlake. This translates into a little over \$1.0 million in construction funds after planning, design and permitting costs are completed.

The I-5 Open Space, is approximately 7.5 acres of Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) property between Lakeview Blvd. E. and Franklin Ave. E. and E. Howe and E. Garfield Streets. Parks and Recreation is currently negotiating a lease with WSDOT to use this land.

Ideas for improving the area will be considered during the planning phases. Many ideas have already been generated. The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan suggests:

- Making pedestrian and bicycle connections from Fairview Ave through the area under I-5 to the steps leading up to Capitol Hill via Blaine and Howe Streets.
- Treating storm-water run-off.
- Planting suitable trees and other vegetation.
- Improving safety by installing lighting and call boxes.
- Incorporating public art.
- Creating sport climbing and mountain biking facilities.

Parks is also considering the area for an "off-leash" facility. Last, the Seattle Arts Commission has identified the site as a location for a significant public art project. Planning and site design will occur from now through early fall of 2003. Since this is WSDOT property, they will need to okay the site plan. Assuming WSDOT approves of the plan, final design will begin in the fall. Parks expects to begin construction in early 2004.

There are many opportunities to be involved in designing this exciting project.

- Ad Hoc Advisory Committee - Parks will meet with the representatives from the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan stewardship committee and other stakeholders the third Thursday of each month beginning in February. They are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the PIMA Medical Institute, 1627 Eastlake Ave. E. in room 4. The meetings are open to whoever is interested in the project.
- Community-wide Public Meetings and Workshops - Parks will hold three public workshops during site planning and schematic design where information is shared with the general community.
- Neighborhood and Stakeholder Meetings - Parks will go to neighborhood council, neighborhood plan stewardship and other stakeholder meetings as needed to provide updates and gather comments.

If you have questions, you can contact the Project Planner, David by telephone at (206) 684-8414, or by email at davidw.goldberg@seattle.gov.

COLONNADE PARK: EASTLAKE ... SPEAK OUT!



By Frank González

Seattle Parks planners should expand the study site for the I-5 Open Space Project to include all acreage under the I-5 freeway from East Newton Street on the north to Aloha Street on the south, to allow designs that minimize conflicts between park activities currently under consideration.

Colon•nade: *n.* A row of columns separated from each other by an equal distance.

Colonnade Park is the informal name for the I-5 Open Space Project, and alludes to row upon row of impressive concrete columns that hold the freeway aloft. The landscape here is harsh, heavily eroded, dusty and barren, but the effect of these silent, massive, sentinels is somehow redeeming, creating a wonderful cathedral-like space. Of the much larger acreage potentially usable for park development, only 7.5 acres between Lakeview Boulevard, Franklin Avenue East, East Howe Street and East Garfield Street are currently being considered (Figure 2). In this area, the land slopes dramatically about 75 feet from Franklin up to Lakeview, and some up-slope vantage points enjoy views of Lake Union, appealingly framed by the stately colonnades. Views that are even more spectacular are available to the south, as well as flatter terrain that is well suited to a trail leading downtown. Do visit these areas, and give your imagination free reign – certainly, architects and artists worth their salt would be intrigued by the challenge and opportunity to create a beautiful and distinctly unique park here.

Eastlakers ... Colonnade Park is no pipe dream ! In fact, \$1,824,870 is available for development, and the design phase of the project is already underway. Eastlake voices are urgently needed, to ensure community needs are met – speak now, or forever hold your peace !

Some Eastlakers have already spoken on the issue of I-5 Open Space development, albeit in a general way. In August 1997, 123 residents responded to a survey conducted by the Eastlake Tomorrow neighborhood planning effort. Among the results, about 65% of respondents ranked the I-5 corridor among the top five open space priority sub-areas. Preferred uses were public art space and an open-air market, as identified by 54% and 52%, respectively. Controversial uses, characterized by significant and roughly equal for/against responses, were identified as homeless shelters (30%/22%) and an amphitheater (28%/27%).

These results and other public outreach efforts were used to set priorities for the Open Space Element of the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan, which the City Council adopted unanimously in 1999. In particular, the I-5 corridor open space (OS) is identified as the “OS-7 South I-5 Greenbelt and Hillclimb” area. Seven specific Implementing Recommendations are listed: Treat storm water runoff; Improve pedestrian access (especially at Boylston Ave. crossing); Create stairway and/or wheelchair ramps connecting Eastlake Avenue and Lakeview Boulevard; Plant trees and vegetation; Install lighting and call boxes; Incorporate public art; Install climbing notches on I-5 columns.

In July 2001, the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) completed a survey in which 110 respondents expressed their views on nine specific elements under consideration for the park. A Survey

summary sheet was subsequently distributed by the Parks department that included these data in tabular form.

The results are shown in Figure 3, expressed as percentages and ranked by support for each element. The Consensus value is just the difference between the number of opponents and supporters, expressed as a percentage. This factor is easy to interpret -- it is exactly 100 for a totally supportive consensus, -100 for a totally opposed consensus, and 0 when supporters and opponents are evenly split, i.e., when

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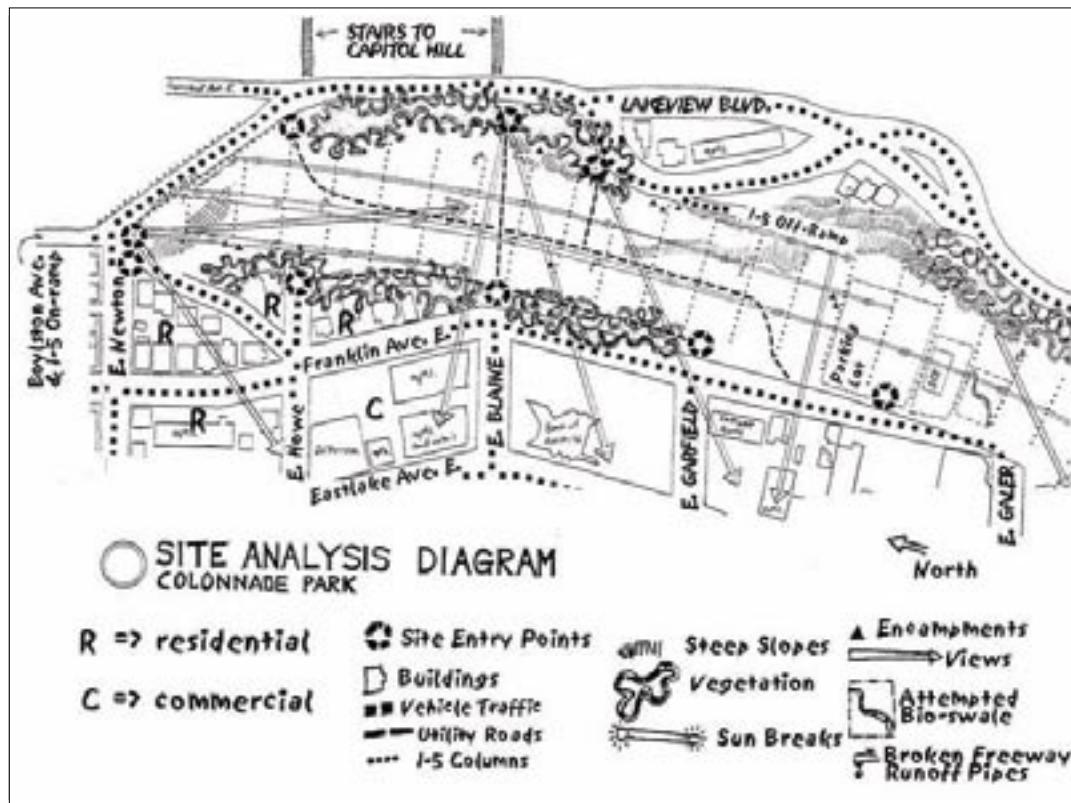


Figure 2. Adapted from Colonnade Park Site Analysis Diagram developed in February 1997 by University of Washington students as part of Landscape Architecture 302 course. The current study site extends from Newton on the north to Garfield on the south.



Mort's Cabin (3202 Harvard Ave. E., 323-6678 or 632-2080) is the workshop and showroom for artist, craftsman, and collector Darold Andersen. Andersen named the shop in memory of his father, who introduced him to nature and to rustic furnishings at their cabin on the Nisqually River and skiing at Paradise on Mt. Rainier. In the style of the great park lodges, Andersen makes lampshades of parchment, deer hide, willow, leaf material, antlers, and vintage fabric. The colorful, entrancing storefront is the latest arrival at the A.W. Larson Building, whose delightful lineup includes **Sevá** (furniture, lighting, home furnishings, and gifts, 3212 Harvard Ave. E., 323-9920), **Kristine Ann's** (stuffed animals, furniture, and dog beds, 3200 Harvard Ave. E., 860-1972), and **Scott Comfort Salon** (3206 Harvard Ave. E., 324-4314).

Eastlake resident **Frederick Turner** is a professional magician who provides magical entertainment for private and corporate parties, celebrations, and promotional events. He can be reached at 720-5519 or turner@effectnet.com. ... **Pete's Supermarket** (58 E. Lynn St., wine@petes.cc) offers a full range of food and drink, including fresh artisan breads, gourmet cheese and meats, and lots of new Washington wines. A popular new snack is Uncle Woody's Caramel Corn. The deli takes sandwich orders by phone (322-2660) or fax (322-1391). ... **Nimble Technology** (1938 Fairview Ave. E., 268-8000), Eastlake's largest software firm (40 employees), made the news recently with another \$6 million in venture capital for its information retrieval software, for accessing data on networks. ... **The Dog Zone** (112 E. Lynn St., 329-9663, www.dogzoneseattle.com) is a day care facility where owners can leave the dog to run with the pack, chase toys, and play on the agility equipment (and the dogs get to do that too!). Bathing and grooming services (for the dogs, not the owners) are also offered. Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and dogs are admitted only if their up-to-date vaccines are documented.

Banyon Tree Design Studio (2003 Franklin Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102, 322-4539, lisamochad@hotmail.com), led by Eastlake resident Lisa Port, offers landscape design and architecture for urban residences and yards, and offering the apartment dweller enhanced connection to the natural environment with a deck or small patio. Lisa and her husband were in the Peace Corps in the South Pacific country of Vanuatu, where the banyon tree (spelled that way there) is a gathering place for the community, encompassing all the villagers in its shade.

Bush, Roed, and Hitchings (2009 Minor Ave., 323-4144, <http://brhinc.com>), a family-owned engineering and surveying firm, again celebrated this past holiday with a generous donation to a neighboring social service organization, **ChildHaven** (100 E. Newton Street, 464-3925), which serves children up to five years old who have been referred because of abuse, neglect, or other needs. Tax-deductible donations or offers to volunteer may be sent to ChildHaven's main office at 316 Broadway, Seattle 98122 (for questions: 624-6477 or <http://childhaven.org>). Donations of children's clothes are also welcome.

People's Memorial Association (2366 Eastlake Ave. #409, 325-0489) has surveyed the prices that different mortuaries charge for such services as embalming, cremation, and burial. The survey is available on its web site (<http://peoplesmemorial.org>) or by mail. Founded in 1939, the Association is the nation's oldest and largest non-profit organization that offers low-cost mortuary services, which it obtains for its members by contracting with a few mortuaries (in Seattle, with the Bleitz and Yarrington funeral homes). The more than 100,000 members pay a one-time \$25 membership fee, which entitles them at the time of death to the contracted prices--currently \$570 for direct cremation, \$855 for direct burial, and \$1,250 for full mortuary services. For questions, call the above phone number or e-mail to carolyn@peoplesmemorial.org.

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A tax-exempt group made up entirely of Eastlake volunteers, the Land Trust seeks to preserve affordable housing and neighborhood character. If you are a sympathetic seller, can suggest one, or just know of a property that may be available, please contact ECLT Board member Paul Hanson at paul.kari@mac.com or 260-1912. Tax-deductible donations are always welcome, c/o the Treasurer, Mary Ferguson, 2933 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle 98102.

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A NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY OF SEWARD SCHOOL

Recent difficulties of local children in gaining entry to The Options Program at Seward contrast with more than a century of partnership between Seward and the neighborhood. Eastlake's founding can be dated to the 1893 opening of Seward School, and the neighborhood and school grew up together, with additions constructed in 1905, 1917, and 2000.

From the outset, a Seward education was considered among the City's best. Between 1932 and 1963, Seward officially was a demonstration school for the whole state, with rows of novice teachers brought in to see the best teachers at work. A pledge found in the archives sums up the proud spirit:

As a member and citizen of Seward
I will be loyal to my school;
Eager to aid and help others,
Prompt and cheerful in obedience;
Honest and trustworthy in all my actions;
Quick to appreciate what is done for me;
Courteous in speech and manner;
Fair and square in work and play;
A good loser and a generous winner;
A pupil proud of the name Seward.

Generations moved to Eastlake or stayed because their children could attend. In the 1920s, a mothers' choir sang at the outset of each meeting of the Parent/Teacher/Student Association. Parental involvement was further increased in the 1970s, when Seward parents originated the Choice-Friday Club Enrichment Program, teaching such varied skills as baking, basketball, and model airplane-building.

The Eastlake Community Council worked with other groups to prevent the school's closure. A letter signed by hundreds of parents in 1973 stressed that "Seward School is one of the last unifying factors in an area severed by a huge freeway." During a 1988 struggle, the ECC newsletter observed that Seward School "attracts parents who value a school located in an area with older, affordable homes, proximity to jobs and adult education, and a quality in-city environment."

Local residents supported closure of Franklin Ave. between the school and Rogers Playfield in the 1940s, and an enlargement of the closure in 2000 despite the loss of parking. Since 1975, this "green street" has benefited from three volunteer projects conducted jointly by the Eastlake Community Council and the school. In 2002, a \$300,000 playscape project in the adjacent Rogers Playfield, primarily led and fundraised by neighbors, was opened with the full understanding that the school kids would be the primary users.

After a 1990 blizzard stranded students and staff overnight at the school with no power or heat, the principal published an open letter to "Eastlake Neighbors": "Many of you made several trips through the night bringing blankets and food, even hot holiday

TRUCKS & NOISE ON THE I-5 EXPRESS LANES

by Jay and Suzy Wakefield

When President Eisenhower conceived the Interstate Highway System, after seeing the autobahns of Germany, freight in America was shipped by rail. The new highways were supposed to run between cities, and ring around cities, like in Europe. Now, however, U.S. freight is moving on freeway bridges not intended for it, and in larger volumes since NAFTA encouraged more freight commerce with Mexico and Canada.

In Seattle, the environmental cost of Interstate 5 and the truck traffic on it is being borne by the neighborhoods it passes through. The freeway was built in the early 1960s, and does not meet current noise and pollution standards for highways. The I-5 Ship Canal bridge itself is more than 40 years old, although it was designed only to last 20. Its life has been extended by seemingly endless retrofits, but it remains below current seismic standards, and is considered a structure at risk. This bridge is obsolescent, due to its poor design. Noise codes alone would prohibit a bridge from being built anywhere today with express lanes hanging below it, radiating noise on the communities below.

A thorough study entitled "Ship Canal Bridge Noise Mitigation" is underway by Michael Minor & Associates for WSDOT of the noise characteristics of the express lanes, as a first step to mitigating the reflected noise from the express lanes. Members of NOISE (Neighborhoods Opposed to Interstate Sound Exposure), myself included, have been seeking to get this study accomplished since 1977. It appears so far that a combination of "Pyrok" (absorptive material) sprayed on the underside of the upper deck, and absorptive panels along the sides of the express lanes could lower the sound levels ten decibels in the neighborhoods below. Michael Minor has commented that the noise "would sound half as loud." At the ends of the bridge, where sound walls could be built up from the ground, the reduction would be up to twenty decibels.

Trucks are major contributors to the noise, particularly as they roar by at off-hours. They create most of the low frequency noise--the most difficult and expensive to deal with because it requires large and heavy material to absorb it. As a mitigation measure for the community, the express lanes are now closed from approximately 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. If trucks were kept off the express lanes, the mitigation effort would not have to focus on measures to cope with the low frequencies. This would save money and weight on the bridge, but WSDOT may resist this option.

How can we balance the need for freight mobility with the noise-reduction benefit of getting trucks off the express lanes? Perhaps transit buses and trucks could share a dedicated mobility lane on the upper deck, for help in making freight deliveries and transit schedules. Please send your comments, suggestions, and ideas to: jswakefield@attbi.com

AN EVENING WITH DAVID HORSEY



The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist Dave Horsey will be featured speaker at ECC's general meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 7-9 p.m. in the TOPS Seward School Library. Horsey's P-I career has taken him to national political party conventions, presidential primaries, the Olympics, Europe, Asia, and Europe, and a year in Washington, D.C. His hilarious cartoons have also skewered countless local politicians, issues, and trends.

Although he was born in Evansville, Indiana, Horsey's local roots are deep. His great-grandparents arrived in Seattle in the 1880s and his parents spent most of their working careers with the Seattle public schools. He grew up in Lake City and later the Haller Lake area and attended Ingraham High School. Horsey has also lived on Capitol Hill and in Madison Park. For the past 20 years, he has lived in the Wallingford neighborhood with his wife, Nole Ann, and two children, Darielle and Daniel.

Dave Horsey received a B.A. in Communications from the University of Washington where he was editor of the student newspaper, *The Daily*. He has published four collections of his professional work: *Horsey's Rude Awakenings* (1981), *Horsey's Greatest Hits of the '80s* (1989), *The Fall of Man* (1994) and *One Man Show* (1999). In 1992, he co-edited an anthology, *Cartooning AIDS Around the World*. He also has two novels in the works.

As featured speaker at ECC's March 26 general meeting, Dave Horsey will show slides of some of his past cartoons and talk about them, including where he gets his ideas and how people react. He will also discuss a forthcoming cartoon and other topics, and answer questions from the audience. Join us for a fun and fascinating evening!

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HELEN - GRACE BROWN 1918 - 2002

It was with sadness that the neighborhood received word of the death of Helen-Grace Brown on September 8, 2002, at the age of 84. Although most recently a resident in an assisted living facility (Heritage House at the Market), Helen-Grace had lived for many years in Eastlake. She was an active bus-rider, and helped the Eastlake Community Council in its efforts to improve the neighborhood's bus service. After a long career in teaching, she kept in touch with those in other countries to whom she had taught English as a foreign language.

Helen-Grace Brown was in the first class of WAVES (Women's Navy Auxiliary) in 1943, and in her eight years in the Navy she attained the rank of lieutenant, serving in Boston, New Orleans, Pearl Harbor, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the Pentagon. She fondly remembered the Navy's ratio of men to women, which at that time was more than three hundred to one! Helen-Grace was buried at sea with full U.S. Navy honors, including a 21-gun salute. Her dog tags and medals were beside her as she was consigned to the deep.

One could see her experience as a military officer and a teacher in Helen-Grace Brown's lifelong courtesy and her precision of word and thought. As Carolyn Krall recalls, "In a polite way, Helen-Grace brought clarity to others, including me! I greatly enjoyed working with her on a survey of the needs of Eastlake senior citizens, and in our shared role as neighborhood representatives to the TOPS-Seward School site council. We will all miss this gracious and self-reliant woman."

LYNN STREET PARK TO BE REDEDICATED MAY 4

Everyone is invited for music, food, and entertainment Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m. to rededicate Lynn Street Park. Judging from the 1976 dedication of the park (see photo), this event is not to be missed! The recent renovation was triggered in 1995 by a driverless beer truck that rolled down from the Eastlake Zoo tavern, taking out some trees and accelerating deterioration of the wood retaining walls. More trees were removed in 2002 to make room for the concrete retaining walls, which the Park Department installed to minimize maintenance.

The community learned a lot from the design process, and will work to retain more natural elements in other parks like Terry Pettus Park (Newton street-end), whose retaining walls are also deteriorating. In the spring when hundreds of bulbs are in bloom and the replacement trees are budding, Lynn Street Park's greenery will begin to return, with much more to come as the years go by.

Even in deepest winter, Lynn Street Park glows with colorful tiles. Artist Maggie Smith led the volunteers who created and installed them in remembrance of people and good times in the neighborhood. A volunteer group, Friends of the Lynn Street Park Art-Tile Project, managed the tile project with Neighborhood Matching



The 1976 dedication of Lynn Street Park

Funds; these City funds were more than matched with donated money, time, and materials. A bench, in the style of the Spanish architect Gaudi, was donated by friends and family of Peg and Tom Stockley, long-time houseboaters and nearby residents who loved the park. They perished in the January 31, 2000 Alaska Airlines crash.

Please join us at 2 p.m. May 4 to rededicate Lynn Street Park. For questions, or if you would like to help with the event, contact Jonathan Ezekiel, jeze2331@aol.com or 322-3651.



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ECC SEEKS VOLUNTEERS & DONATED EQUIPMENT

As an all-volunteer organization, the Eastlake Community Council can achieve its mission of building community and enhancing the neighborhood only with your help. Here are some of the items we need: an easel board to use at public meetings; chairs suitable for a conference table; historical photos, clippings, photos, films, video or audio tape, and other records for the Eastlake archives.

Coordinators and other volunteers are needed for several projects: (1) design guidelines for Eastlake Avenue, Fairview Avenue, and Lynn Street east of Eastlake Ave.; (2) working with the City on what to do now that Eastlake has met its housing production goals twelve years faster than called for by the City Comprehensive Plan; (3) help for our land use committee in reviewing projects; (4) planning for the renovation of Terry Pettus Park (Newton Street end); (5) weeding in Good Turn Park, Fairview-Olmsted Park, and other local parks; (6) organizing our summer event, the "Eastlake Shake" (see separate article); and (7) hand-delivering the Eastlake News on your block. To volunteer or donate: cleman@oo.net, 322-5463 or write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102.

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COLONNADE ... CONT.

there is no consensus. A controversial issue will therefore tend to have a Consensus Factor near zero.

A clear pattern is unmistakable -- as Support drops and Opposition increases, Uncertainty grows. Three park elements stand out as controversial, with a Consensus factor close to zero -- Off-Leash Areas, Sports Climbing, and Mountain Biking. In addition, these three elements garnered the smallest percentage of support. Why is this ? Perhaps because they substantially benefit smaller interest groups than the other six elements, which offer benefits that can be enjoyed by all residents. Sports Climbing and Mountain Biking are active recreations that may be unappreciated or even actively opposed by residents who view them as potential sources of noise, dust and other problems.

Off-leash areas, in particular, have a very controversial history. For many residents, their affection for dogs is more than offset by the potential problems that can accompany a neighborhood off-leash area -- noise, odors, unsanitary conditions and other environmental impacts, and parking and traffic problems. Organized opposition by a neighborhood citizen group led to the November 3, 2002 closure of the off-leash area in Volunteer Park. Passed in 1997, the City Council's Resolution 29628 requires the Park Department to open "another site on Capitol Hill" to replace the Volunteer Park off-leash area.

The Park Department apparently believes that an off-leash area in Colonnade Park would satisfy this City Council requirement, even though few if any would claim that this part of Eastlake is on Capitol Hill. Most Capitol Hill users would have to drive through Eastlake to access the off-leash area from Franklin Avenue E. and, as reported by the Seattle Times on the day of the Volunteer Park closure, off-leash advocates are not entirely pleased with the I-5 Open Space site. Neither is an off-leash area a component of the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan.

Certainly, one might question the compatibility of sports climbing, mountain biking, and a dog run with a vision of Colonnade Park that is more like a greenbelt – landscaping, lighting, public arts, pedestrian and bicycle connections from Eastlake to Capitol Hill, and perhaps an open-air market site – all supported by the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan and both the 1997 and 2001 surveys. As a practical matter, sheer space is probably a serious limitation. This is especially true in light of City Council Resolution 29628, in which important criteria are established for site selection, development and management, based on careful City staff analysis of the successes and failures of a pilot program. In particular, it was found that, among ten key factors, successful off-leash areas:

- Avoid directly abutting residences
- Assure the availability of close parking
- Avoid sensitive environmental areas such as wildlife habitats and steep slopes

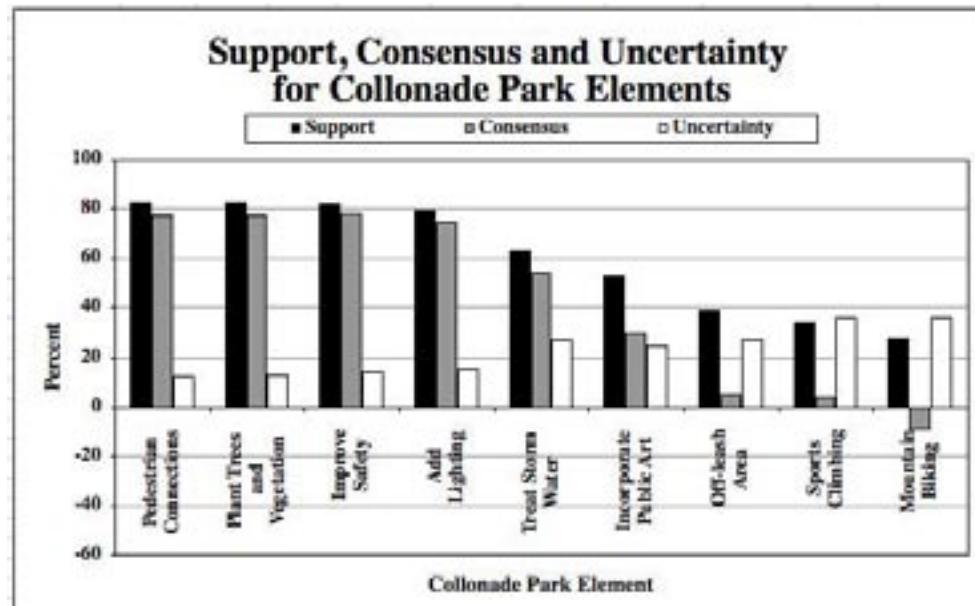


Figure 3. Results of July 2001 DPR Survey on Colonnade Park Elements under consideration.

The Parks Department is currently limiting consideration to a 7.5-acre site which is steep-sloped, and whose northern half directly abuts residences in a neighborhood short on parking space (Figure 2). Consequently, an off-leash area would be very difficult to justify north of E. Blaine Street. Clearly, this reduction in design flexibility might be mitigated by expansion of the study site.

All who have expressed an opinion on the boundary – the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan Stewardship Committee, Eastlake Community Council, Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission, Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, and City Council members Conlin and Steinbrueck -- have all written the Park Department urging expansion of the planning area beyond Garfield toward Aloha. So far, the Department has declined, and may thereby forfeit an opportunity to decrease the potential conflict between proposed park elements, incorporate the most spectacular views, and include a neighborhood trail to downtown. If enough people contact him, Mayor Nickels may still intervene to ensure the larger planning area. To comment: Mayor Greg Nickels, 600 Fourth Avenue, 12th floor, Seattle 98104-1876, mayors.office@seattle.gov, phone: 684-4000, fax: 684-5360.

The Eastlake Community Council will hold a public meeting on February 25 in the Seward Elementary School Library. The meeting will start at 7pm with a discussion of school issues. At 8 pm, the I-5 Open Space / Colonnade Park Project will be discussed. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are urgently needed and solicited. Plan to participate.

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**Our apologies to anyone who has tried to contact us in the recent past. We have had trouble retrieving the call-back information.*

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SCHOOL CRISIS ... CONT.

Reflecting these concerns, the 1998 Eastlake Neighborhood Plan includes as a key recommendation, Goal D-1.4 for the School District to establish neighborhood residency as priority for assignment to TOPS. Toward this end, the Eastlake Community Council supports the proposal made in 2002 by two school board members to allocate on the basis of geographic proximity half of the TOPS kindergarten openings.

Residents of this area worked hard to bring TOPS (then called The Options Program at Stevens) to Seward, and later supported the expansion of TOPS to the eighth grade, and the expansion of the Seward buildings. Initially, this faith was repaid by the welcome that TOPS gave to any neighborhood children who sought admission.

Residents are now surprised and disappointed at the opposition of some TOPS parents and staff to any preference for local children in school assignments. Not only Eastlake, but TOPS itself, will benefit if TOPS includes the schoolchildren who live in the very neighborhood in which the program has chosen to locate. More receptiveness at TOPS is certainly not the only solution, but it is hard to see a solution that does not include it.

Attend the February 25 meeting to learn the latest on the school assignment crisis and how you can get involved. And please write the School Board, as follows.

Nancy Waldman: NWaldman@seattleschools.org
 Barbara Peterson: bpeterson@seattleschools.org
 Barbara Schaad-Lamphere: bschaadl@seattleschools.org
 Dick Lilly: dililly@seattleschools.org
 Jan Kumasaka: jkumasaka@seattleschools.org
 Mary Bass: mabass@seattleschools.org
 Steve Brown: sbrown@seattleschools.org

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 mail stop 11-010
 Seattle, WA 98124

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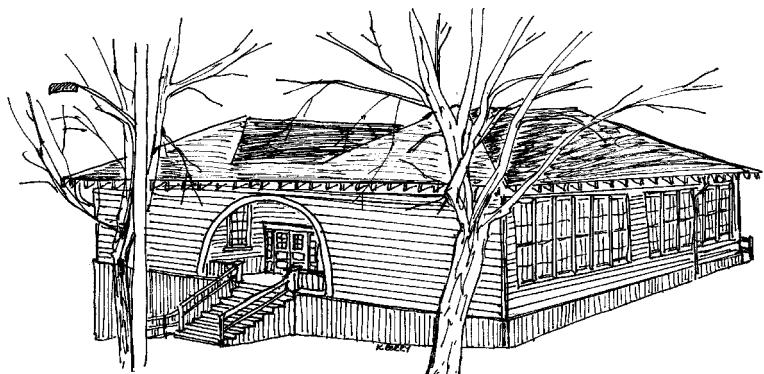


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SEWARD HISTORY ... CONT.

bread fresh from the oven early in the morning. Your thoughtfulness warmed our hearts.” Local businesses have also contributed athletic equipment to the school. In 1987, ECC and the Floating Homes Association persuaded Seattle City Light to grant \$11,000 to Seward School for removal of asbestos and PCBs. And of course, non-parent neighbors, just as parents do, have always volunteered in the educational program. The Eastlake Community Council helped organize a Seward School reunion in 1989, and a Seward School centennial celebration in 1993.



The original 1893 Seward School Building.

Drawing by Karen Berry

The Eastlake Community Council has endorsed public school bond issues and levies, and the neighborhood residents have voted for schools funding with some of the highest margins in the city. However, in recent years many have found that Seward is no longer their polling place. Prior to the 2000 renovation, all Eastlake precincts voted at the school. Now only a portion of the Eastlake precincts vote there; the others must cross Interstate 5 to vote at St. Patrick’s Church. The Eastlake Community Council is working to restore Seward as the polling place for all Eastlake precincts.

Since 1991, ECC has designated a neighborhood representative on the Site Council that advises the School District on operation of the TOPS program. The first representatives were Carolyn Krall and Helen-Grace Brown (shared position). Subsequent representatives have included Teresa Jones, Marjorie Nelson Steinbrueck, Jules James, Barbara Zegar, and Laura Connor, with the current ones being Bob Geballe and Susan

Kaufman (shared position, with Laura Connor as alternate). Geballe and Kaufman can be reached at 328-3560 or bobg@oneacreplus.net.

Please send us your memories, photos, and mementoes about Seward School, and let us know if you would like to organize another reunion. Write to History, c/o ECC at 117 E. Louis St. #1, Seattle 98102, or phone 322-5463 or e-mail to cleman@oo.net.

BUSINESSES ... CONT.



The NOAA Ship McArthur

Our favorite federal agency, NOAA (1801 Fairview Ave. E.) outdid itself this year with another display of holiday lights. Already known for the spectacular strings of lights it puts up every December on its big white ships, NOAA has also begun decorating its building, and this year the main entrance was lit up in patriotic red, white, and blue. ... After more than 35 years of faithful service on Lake Union and mapping and researching the oceans, the 175-foot NOAA Ship McArthur is retiring; here's hoping that Seattle Central Community College's Maritime Academy is successful in acquiring the brave ship for its use in training. NOAA's replacement for McArthur, a 224-foot former Navy ship, is steaming toward Eastlake through the Panama Canal. The McArthur is named (the name may be applied also to the new ship) after a distinguished hydrographer who, in dangerous and primitive conditions, produced in the 1840s and 1850s the first detailed navigational charts of the Pacific Coast - and died while on duty. In this era when "naming rights" to Seattle buildings are being auctioned to the highest bidder, it's good to see an agency remembering the greatness of its own employees.

Congratulations to **Janice Ellis**, who in November won a landslide victory to become Snohomish County Prosecutor. Prior to moving, Janice and her husband

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Ron shared a position on the Eastlake Community Council board of directors. She is not the first former board member to attain higher elected office - a few years ago, Fred Kempe served as Mayor of Issaquah. But Janice is our highest-ranking alumna, and even greater things may be in store. One of her predecessors as Snohomish County Prosecutor was the late Senator Henry Jackson!

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

ECC Membership Application Eastlake Community Council

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Address _____

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