

JULY 4 TRAFFIC, PARKING, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT—AND JULY 5 CLEAN-UP

The Eastlake Community Council offers the following information about traffic, parking, and law enforcement plans for July 4, and a volunteer opportunity to help clean up the neighborhood on July 5.

Public fireworks. The KIRO TV Channel 7 broadcast begins at 9 p.m. A National Guard helicopter flyover and howitzers (cannons) precede the fireworks, which begin at 10:20 p.m. and last for about 20 minutes. Information on the events at Gas Works Park can be found on the [SeaFair web site](#).

Cell phones. Amidst large crowds, the system gets overloaded. Except for true emergencies, avoid making voice calls on your cell phone that night. Text messages burden the system less and get through more easily.

Buses. Metro buses and Sound Transit will be on a holiday schedule (same as Sundays).

Parking. As July 4 is an official holiday, Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) stickers and guest passes aren't required. However, some streets will be posted for no parking, and parking tickets will be issued. Likely on July 4 from 11 a.m. to midnight will be: no parking on both sides of Eastlake from Hamlin St. south to Newton St. from on the Fourth; and no parking on the east side of Eastlake Ave. north of Hamlin St. All day July 4, parking is likely to be prohibited on both sides of E. Newton St. between Fairview Ave. E. and Eastlake Ave.

Off-ramp and Lakeview closures. Between 9 p.m. and 11, the Mercer, Boylston and Roanoke off-ramps from I-5 will be closed; and the Lakeview overpass will be closed to all motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Street closures and police checkpoints. Guests from outside the neighborhood would best arrive well before 7 p.m., because about then, police officers restrict motor vehicle entry to the areas west of Eastlake Ave. except to residents and those with proof that a resident has invited them. There will be police checkpoints heading west from Eastlake Ave. at the following streets: Fuhrman, Allison, Hamlin, Edgar, Roanoke, Louisa, Lynn, Boston, Newton, and Howell; and at the corner of Fairview Ave. E. and E. Newton St.

For guests who arrive after 7 p.m. You may hope that the police officers will honor an invitation or e-mail from you that your guests show at the checkpoint; however, this is not required of the police, who know that this paperwork is sometimes abused. To be sure that your guests are admitted, you may need to visit at a checkpoint to show the officers your ID indicating an Eastlake address, and provide a list of guests who you wish to be let through. This approach will obviously be simpler if you instruct your guests all to enter at just one of the checkpoint streets.

Traffic during and after the show. Leaving by car from the Eastlake neighborhood just after the fireworks is always difficult, but again this year will be eased by some streets being temporarily one-way. The two blocks of Lynn St. from Eastlake Ave. to Boylston Ave. E. are likely again to be one-way heading east. To head south on I-5, be in the right lane; to head north on I-5, be in the left lane. After the fireworks, Harvard Ave. E. from Roanoke St. to Eastlake Ave. will (except for buses and bicycles) also temporarily be one-way heading north

Private fireworks. Without a permit, the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling or use of fireworks are prohibited in Seattle, punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine. Yet private fireworks are spreading. They risk fire, property damage, injury and death. Skyrockets can land on roofs or vegetation or go through windows. Pets are traumatized or lost. On July 5 the Seattle Animal Shelter takes in twice as many lost pets as normal. Birds scared by fireworks are known to pull their own feathers out. Please be considerate of your neighbors and the animal kingdom.

When to call 911 on July 4. Always call 911 about any observed or suspected crimes or life-threatening emergencies. However, that evening the 911 centers can become overloaded with non-emergencies, blocking life-threatening emergency calls. Illegal parking is at its highest on July 4 and can be life-threatening because of blockage of emergency routes. Do call 911 anytime if private fireworks cause an emergency requiring immediate help from police, fire or medics; or if someone is parking by a fire hydrant. For other fireworks and parking infractions on July 4, please call the Seattle Police non-emergency number at (206) 625-5011, then dial 2, then 8 to reach a dispatcher. Also, July 4 is the best day of the year (especially after 7 p.m.) to find on the streets a patrol or parking enforcement officer who, even if not able to leave his or her post, will be able to report the problem by radio, reducing the 911 load.

July 5 clean-up. Between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, join other volunteers in cleaning up our streets and shores after the fireworks and crowds. Meet at Louisa street-end park to pick up empty bags and drop off full ones on Fairview Avenue E., a block south of Roanoke Street. A picnic lunch will be available at Lake Union Park following the cleanup. Signup (not required) at http://www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/th_event/seattle-summer-sweep-2-lake-union-fireworks-cleanup, where you can also find info about cleanup efforts over water (some kayaks are available to borrow). Sponsored by the Eastlake Community Council, Puget SoundKeeper, and SeaFair.

Let ECC know. If you have a question or anything to add to the above, please contact the Eastlake Community Council at info@eastlakeseattle.org. And afterwards, please write us about how well the City handled the event and with any of your problems or suggestions, as ECC works with the City on any needed improvements for the next July 4 in Eastlake.