

The



# EASTLAKE NEWS

August / September 2007

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
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## AIRPLANES AND RACING SHELLS ON THE LAKE

By Paul G. Spitzer

Few know that what is called the old "shell house" on the U of W side of the Montlake Cut was originally a hangar. Built in 1918, just two years after William Boeing built the first one on the shore of Lake Union, this hangar originally belonged to the U.S. Navy, although Boeing undoubtedly had a role in its establishment.

That the structure survives is remarkable since so few other buildings from the era do. Little about its appearance has changed as it nears the end of its ninth decade. It is one of the oldest aviation facilities in America.



George Pocock (2nd from right), his brother Dick (far right), and their Boeing co-workers craft pontoons for the Model C, Boeing's second design. (1918 photo courtesy of Boeing Archives.)

... continued on page 2

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Aug. 7 (Tuesday) **Neighborhood potluck**, 6 p.m. on 2600 block of Franklin Avenue E. (between Roanoke and Edgar). Bring something to grill and something to share. Kids welcome! Questions: 329-1468 or lakeunionmail@juno.com.

Aug. 11 (Saturday) **LakeFest neighborhood festival** (and pet parade) located between Rogers Playfield and Seward School (see article).

Aug. 21 (Tuesday) **Election Day**. The primary election for City Council and School Board is a month earlier than ever before. Don't forget!

Sept. 15 (Saturday) **Colonnade Park work party**, 10 a.m. to 2. Help weed and spread wood chips under I-5, south of Newton Street. Coordination/refreshments by Eastlake Starbucks.

Oct. 9 (Tuesday) **ECC annual elections meeting**, 7-9 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. Candidates for City Council and School Board will debate and field your questions, and ECC holds its annual board elections (see article).

Nov. 3 (Saturday). **Introduction to Oral History Interviewing**. Museum of History and Industry 2700 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. (charge: \$40). [www.seattlehistory.org](http://www.seattlehistory.org), 324-1126.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The wooden building is just slightly younger than the Museum of Flight's better-known Red Barn, but is more intact and actually stands in its original location. It remains largely one big room with a very high ceiling and gigantic doors that open up one whole side along the Cut. The doors and the odd slanting walls declare it was originally a hangar and nothing else.

The big room also suited perfectly sixty-foot long eight oared shells. Their length was not too different from the wingspan of many period airplanes and the hangar's unusual height was sufficient vertically to store twelve-foot oars. The switch from hangar to shell house about 1920 was, therefore, easily accomplished when the university, according to legend, paid the Navy one dollar for the building.

Prior to the hangar, the university's Tokyo Teahouse on the north shore of Portage Bay served as the site where champion rowers George and Dick Pocock built wooden racing shells. The university's crew coach had persuaded the brothers to move to Seattle from Vancouver, B.C. in 1913, but there was not enough local demand for shells to keep them employed.

One day university president Henry Suzzallo came around with a friend. The visitor was, of course, aviation entrepreneur William Boeing. He had already played a role in establishing aviation courses and about this same time gave the university another building which has defied age, the school's wind tunnel. Shortly after the first Boeing airplane flew, George Pocock hired on and started building beautiful cold-molded, red cedar pontoons. Made by gluing veneer strips together, these were far lighter, stronger and more streamlined than the plank floats then common.

Boeing's second design, the Model C, owed its selection by the Navy in large part to Pocock's excellent pontoons and when the Navy ordered 50 of them, it put Boeing solidly in the aviation business and forced the company out of the overly small Lake Union hangar. Because the pontoons were so good, Boeing expected to sell many more of them, even possibly several hundred. He waited in vain.

During World War I, the university cut the crew program and the Navy became a presence on campus with a naval air cadet program. President Suzzallo harbored ambitions for a permanent Navy air station, offering the waterfront between the stadium and University Avenue. However by the time he and Boeing traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby the idea, the two knew the plan had little chance. In 1919 the King County government began purchasing land for an airport at Sand Point outside the city limits and in 1922 the Navy began leasing and was later given the land for Sand Point Naval Air Station.

Meanwhile the Navy's new hangar housed several partially assembled planes used to train cadet classes. The curriculum emphasized familiarization, ground handling and maintenance, and not actually flying. Thus a strange feature of the hangar is that airplanes rarely



The 1918 airplane hangar at the university was built and abandoned by the Navy within about two years. If an airplane ever flew from it, no public record or photo of the event is any longer available.

and probably never flew out of it!

Perhaps the lack of flying was because the hangar's location next to the canal was not ideal. The ramp up from the water required a lot of "beach mules" to move a two thousand pound training plane. Mules, namely muscle in the form of eager cadets was plentiful, of course, in the naval program. They were also the solution to the second disadvantage of the site because someone had to tow the planes from the hangar to open water and back into the ship canal.

Pocock continued to work for Boeing and did much to establish the firm's reputation for quality products, but the war ended only 19 months after the U.S. entry and was followed by a severe airplane depression. Suddenly, there was virtually no market for planes. This was the period when the Boeing firm turned to producing furniture and the floor of its great assembly building on the Duwamish River stood bare from wall to wall. George Pocock temporarily laid himself off and used some of the space to build racing shells.

Pocock was an affable man while Boeing was the opposite and very intimidating even when he was trying not to be. There is an account of the two sharing cigars one evening at a company supervisor's meeting where Boeing, holding the lighter toward his employee, said "Turn it around my boy, you have the wrong end in your mouth." The authority for the story is George Pocock himself. In fact, the owner greatly admired his employee and rewarded him (and others) with shares of company stock.

Eventually two trends helped convince George Pocock to leave aviation. One was the decline of seaplanes. Nonetheless, as mentioned in two earlier articles in the *Eastlake News*, Eddie Hubbard, Percy Barnes and the international airmail route would keep seaplanes active on Lake Union until the late Thirties. Also, airplanes began employing metal wherever possible and would be using less wood, his favorite material. Pocock left the company in 1922, but held onto the stock.

With the end of World War I, the university's crew

program returned and blossomed with Pocock's help. The Navy was gone, the hangar was empty and a stronger than ever racing program required more red cedar boats. The university made space inside the hangar, even allowing him to build boats for sale. With his boats winning many major races, he established himself as the foremost shell builder in the country. It was with a Pocock boat that the UW eight won Olympic gold in Berlin in 1936. Rowing's ubiquitous presence in Seattle owes a lot to Pocock.

In 1963 Pocock left the university and joined in a new shell-building business with his son a short hop to the west on Lake Union where the Chihuly glass plant now operates. Pocock died in 1976, but the story of his Boeing stock was not yet done. Just across the canal, the Pocock Rowing Center opened in 1994, partially paid for with his widow's contribution of the long-held stock.

Outside, the shells and airplanes that vie for a place on Lake Union are carrying on a connection that began ninety years ago.

*Paul G. Spitzer formerly was the Corporate Historian at Boeing, a university professor and Curator at the Museum of History and Industry.*

### CITY COUNCIL, SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES AT ECC ANNUAL MEETING

ECC's Tuesday, **Oct. 9 annual meeting** (7-9 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School) is your chance to quiz City Council and School Board candidates about issues. The meeting begins with the ECC annual meeting and elections. It's not too late to volunteer yourself or a friend for nomination to the ECC board of directors. Send resume to ECC, 117 E. Louisa #1 or cleman@oo.net, or call (206) 322-5463.



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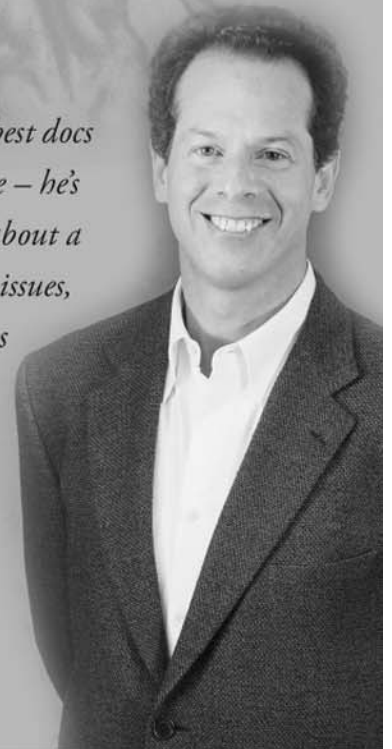
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## QUACK!!! LAKEFEST IS BACK!!! SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

LakeFest is back as a Seafair-affiliated neighborhood festival between Rogers Playfield and Seward School, noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, August 11. This year, ECC is organizing the kids' kite-building workshop and the pet parade. Pet parade registration is 11 a.m. in the north courtyard (near parking lot) at TOPS Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. Parade starts at 11:30 a.m., ending by 12:30. Costumes are welcome, as are children without pets. Questions: cleman@oo.net or (206) 322-5463.

LakeFest begins at 10 a.m. with a free session by Eastlake Yoga. There will be tennis, a beer garden and a rochambeau tournament (rock, paper, scissors). And a centerpiece will be more than nine hours of cutting-edge music selected by Spencer Looney of GroveLand Productions, with performances by Carrie Akre (Hammerbox/Goodness); From The North (Shawn Smith & Kevin Wood); Optimus Rhyme; Macklemore; The Lights; Shake Some Action; Root Beer Barrels; Marmalade; and Soul Kata.

For details, see [www.lake-fest.com](http://www.lake-fest.com).

## DEVIN LOSES HER VAN, AND WE HELP HER GET ANOTHER

The neighborhood rallied quickly with more than \$20,000 in June that, combined with insurance, bought a used but recent-model Dodge wheelchair lift van for Devin Cabbage. Devin is a ten-year old with cerebral palsy whose unoccupied van was totaled by a criminal fleeing from the police. Devin and her parents were featured at the June 6 Eastlake night at Louisa's, and offer their thanks in the note below.

We are eternally grateful for all the support and care the Eastlake neighborhood has shown us throughout the last six weeks. We are still overwhelmed by the quick response we got to our call for help. We never would have made it through without the thoughtful kindness of each and every person that either made a donation or spread the word about our story. We absolutely love our new van, and Devin giggles every time she rides in it. May we return the favor if any of you is ever in need. Thank you again!  
Devin, Dawson and Katie





## COMMEMORATION WALL BY LOCAL ARTIST

Mike (Mikela) Naylor had a show in April at Gallery 110 that featured "Commemoration Wall." This nine foot by seven foot installation has 218 separate seven-inch coffin-shaped pieces, each drawn into with a woodburning tool, and then painted with mixed media materials. Naylor also wrote a question-posed poem that addresses the issue for each piece.

The artist began the work Memorial Day 2006 and made one piece on each of the next 218 days, ending Dec. 31. The newspaper was the source for the subjects addressed, mostly having to do with social grief, but sometimes simply what she calls "relief from grief." Naylor has applied for a grant to turn the work into an artist book—and "may do that anyway, grant or not." The editors hope that the wall will be exhibited in other

places—maybe the Eastlake Art Walk that is now in planning. The artist can be reached at mikelanaylor@comcast.net.



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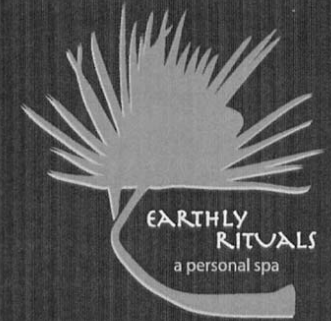
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**Open Door Studios** (2731 Eastlake Ave. E., 329-5471, [www.opendoorstudios.net](http://www.opendoorstudios.net)) had its grand opening on July 14. On a daily, monthly, or yearly basis, the public has access to excellent facilities for painting, pottery, sculpture, woodworking, printmaking, and photography. Also offered are classes and mentoring by practicing artists. There

is a family room for parents and children, and lockers for day and monthly use. ... Volunteers and local artists are needed for an **Eastlake Art Walk**. Stops so far planned include **Open Door Studios**, as well as **Patrick Howe Gallery** (3200 Harvard Ave. E., 206-322-5540, [www.patrickhowe.com](http://www.patrickhowe.com)); and **Eastlake Framing** (2367 Eastlake Ave. E., 322-5080). To get involved: 322-5540 or [patrick@patrickhowe.com](mailto:patrick@patrickhowe.com). ... Local sculptor **Gus Schairer** ([www.gschairer.com](http://www.gschairer.com), 898-6174) is the featured artist for August at the Edmonds Art Gallery, 524 Main Street, Edmonds, Washington. The opening reception is Sunday, August 5th, from 1 p.m. to 5, and he will also be at the Gallery on Saturday, August 18th, from 12 to 5. ... Local weaver **Usch Engelmann** will show a collection of her woven wall hangings at Sanford & Son Antique Mall, home of the Middle Floor Merchants - 20 individually owned and operated shops and services, 743 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402. Opening day is Oct. 18., which is also the day of the Tacoma Gallery Walk.

**Serafina Osteria & Enoteca** (2043 Eastlake Ave. E., 323-0807, [www.serafinaseattle.com](http://www.serafinaseattle.com)) was the 2005 NWsource.com Peoples Pick for "Most Romantic Restaurant," but an award for "most heroic" now seems warranted, too. Shootings in Eastlake are almost unheard of, but bartender Miles Thomas was shot while protecting his bar full of patrons during an armed robbery in the very early morning of June 6. Donations for his recovery and expenses are near \$20,000 and still needed. Checks made out to Miles Thomas may be sent to Serafina, 2043 Eastlake Avenue East, Seattle 98102; for questions: (206) 323-0807 or [rachel@serafinaseattle.com](mailto:rachel@serafinaseattle.com). ... Again this year, **Serafina** is hosting separate events for neighborhood residents and businesses. On Saturday, Sept. 29 (4-6 p.m.) will be a "community appreciation party," with admission by a copy of the invitation that is inserted in this issue of the Eastlake News. And on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 4-6 there will be a similar reception for Eastlake businesses. Owner Susan Kaufman (also a longtime Eastlake resident) co-chaired the "Main Street" section of the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan (<http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/npi/plans/elake/>) which focused on strengthening our neighborhood business district and its partnership with the residents, and we appreciate her continued efforts.

**EVZE World Gourmet** (3213 Eastlake Ave., 709-7566, [www.evze.com](http://www.evze.com)) sends out an interesting monthly e-mail about exotic and gourmet foods; [info@evze.com](mailto:info@evze.com) to subscribe. The July edition mentions that there are 120,000 varieties of rice, including Himalayan Red Rice (also called Bhutanese Red Rice), which mellows to pink after it cooks. Then there is Chinese Black Rice (also known as Forbidden Rice), which becomes a beautiful indigo color after cooking. ... Welcome to Chang and Kay Moon, new owners of **Quick Stop Grocery and Deli** (2352 Eastlake Ave. E., 323-0010). Hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, and there is a cash machine.

The historic **Daly's Drive-In** (2713 Eastlake, 322-1918) will lose its location to a proposed office development, probably in January, and may close after that. Drop by now to savor Seattle's best drive-in food and view. Thanks, Daly's, for a great 45 years. ... Congratulations to **Patrick's Fly Shop** (2237 Eastlake Ave. E., 325-8988, [www.patricksflyshop.com](http://www.patricksflyshop.com)), on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hours are M-Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. to 3. ... **Lake Washington Rowing Club**, which has a facility at the foot of East Garfield Street, welcomes new members, and offers monthly introductory training. For information: [www.lakewashingtonrowing.com](http://www.lakewashingtonrowing.com) or 537-1583.

**Sitka and Spruce** (2238 Eastlake, 324-0662, [sitkaandspruce.com](http://sitkaandspruce.com)) last fall was on GO magazine's list of the nation's five "best new restaurants," and the July 2007 issue of Food and Wine magazine honored owner Matt Dillon as one of the nation's ten best new chefs. Matt received his award at a posh reception at New York's 7 World Trade Center. ... The American Society of Landscape Architects will in October award its coveted Design Medal to local landscape architect **Richard Haag** (2412 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, 325-8119), for his design of Gas Works Park on Lake Union and large parts of the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island.

Neighbors **Bridge Blond Salon** (2373 Eastlake Ave, 255-9830) and **Juice World** (2501 Eastlake Ave.) jointly and imaginatively reached out to customers with a coupon offering discounts on styling—and on a smoothie and sandwich. ... It was good to see Ernie Howisey in the paper recently. He is enjoying life at 93 after retiring from many years with the **Howisey Brothers** furniture restoration firm (323-3010) once located on Eastlake Avenue. ... Check out the sculptured plants (topiary) near the corner of Fairview Ave. E. and East Hamlin Street—the **leafy violinist** in Hamlin Park,





and the **huge frog** about a half block south. More in a later issue about the artist. Fremont, eat your heart out!

**Louisa's Bakery and Café** is not only a popular dining and coffee house, but also hosts the regular meetings of several groups. One is Seattle Open Coffee, described by Seattle P-I Venture Capital columnist John Cook as a "low-key gathering of **entrepreneurs** who come to discuss the trials and tribulations of starting new businesses." Louisa's also hosts the Open Writing Group, which offers mentoring to **writers**. One feature is timed writing, with mutual feedback. For information, contact co-leader Jack Remick, jackremick@gmail.com. Thanks also to Louisa's owners Luise and Michael Mooney for hosting with ECC on June 6 the delicious and sociable **Eastlake Night**, a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. Don't miss the next one, so watch for the posters!

**Pomodoro Ristorante** has expanded its menu to include a signature paella, more tapas, and an emphasis on the fresh, organic, natural, or seasonal. See the web site at [www.pomodoro.net](http://www.pomodoro.net), soon to feature some extraordinary digital art of food still-lives by Pomodoro owner Antolin Blanco. The restaurant will be closed for the entire month of August while Blanco and his wife Jae immerse their children in the rich culture and food of his native Spain.

**PanGEO** (2021A Minor Avenue East, 406-8692, stan@pangeo.com) is a geotechnical and earthquake engineering consulting firm. ... Our favorite hardware store, **Hardwick's** (4214 Roosevelt, 632-1203) employs G. Robin Smith who, as a sideline, does acclaimed one-person shows as founding father Benjamin Franklin. For information: [www.Ben-Franklin.org](http://www.Ben-Franklin.org), (206) 933-8681. ... Local resident Becki Chandler runs **Puzzle Piece Design Studio** (223-0758, [www.puzzlepiecedesignstudio.com](http://www.puzzlepiecedesignstudio.com)), specializing in mid- to high-end residential custom cabinetry, space planning and interior design.

**Grand Central Baking Co.** (1616 Eastlake Ave. E., 957-9505, [www.grandcentralbakery.com](http://www.grandcentralbakery.com)) was pronounced a "lunch-worthy spot, with a nice variety of tasty, fresh sandwiches" in the April 6 Seattle P-I. ... **Cards, Gifts, Etc.** (2366 Eastlake Avenue East, 329-9202) has added a unique line of photographic cards by Ken's photos. Hours are M-F 9:30 to 6, and Saturdays 10:30 to 4. ... **Pemco's** spring 2007 newsletter reports that among male boaters who die in alcohol-related drownings, "about half of them fell overboard, apparently while relieving themselves. The disorientation of falling overboard can cause an intoxicated person to swim down instead of up." Alcohol and water don't always mix well. Be careful out there!

**Lake Union Drydock** (1515 Fairview Ave. E.) has had a lot of business from Alaska recently, such as the reconditioning of two barges, two tugboats, and two landing craft for the Coastal Villages Native Corporation, which is based in Bethel, Alaska. ... Sea Horse, the huge crane barge of **Northern Marine Salvage and Development** (1515 Fairview Ave. E., [www.northernmarinesalvage.com](http://www.northernmarinesalvage.com)) wonderfully handled the delicate placement of vintage cedar logs lining the shoreline pathway between Lake Union Drydock and NOAA. The logs were donated by **Peterson Yacht Services** (1609 Fairview Ave. E.). ... And thanks to **Ralli-Round** foreign car specialists (1512 Fairview Avenue E., 323-8000) for storing and watering the native shrubs and trees that neighborhood volunteers will plant this winter on the Fairview shoreline between Lake Union Dry Dock and NOAA.

Whether or not you've belonged before to the **Eastlake Community Council**, please send in your individual or household membership check. ECC also welcomes business members at \$75 a year. For information, contact ECC board member Charlie Walsh, [charliejr@issidata.com](mailto:charliejr@issidata.com). ... ECC is also helping to establish an **Eastlake Merchants Association**; for information, contact the author of this column. ... Mention here does not imply endorsement by the ECC, writer, or editor. Send your news to Chris Leman ([cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net)) or c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

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## ACT NOW TO SAVE NOAA ON LAKE UNION!

NOAA's Pacific Marine Center July 4, 2006 fire was a setback, but we must defeat the Port of Bellingham's aggressive lobbying campaign to take advantage of the situation. They already took the Alaska Ferry; let's not let them take NOAA! In December the Seattle City Council responded with Resolution 30940 (<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us>), and in July Mayor Nickels, UW President Emmert, the Port of Seattle, and a coalition of businesses wrote to NOAA and Congress. But letters from individuals have been few, and are needed urgently.

NOAA is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Its Survey of the Coast was chartered by Pres. Thomas Jefferson in 1807 and is the nation's oldest scientific and technical agency. Survey of the Coast ships began operations in the Seattle area and Puget Sound in the late 1800s, establishing a permanent office in 1898 in the Bailey Building (on the southwest corner of 2nd and Cherry, now on the National Register of Historic Places).

These ships, so crucial to navigation and to science, found winter moorage in Puget Sound until completion of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and the Lake Washington Ship Canal in 1916, whereupon their base became Lake Union, where they remain today at 1801 Fairview Avenue East. Seattle is the principal NOAA ship base in the Pacific Ocean and the center for marine charting and oceanographic research operations from the north coast of Alaska through the Bering Sea, the Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska, Puget Sound and off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii.

Just try to imagine Lake Union without those big, white ships! Then e-mail or post a thoughtful and committed message to our senators (especially Cantwell, who's on the committee that deals with NOAA), and to the Administrator. Because of the urgency, e-mail is best, but letters are OK, or send both—and it wouldn't hurt to phone also! Emphasize NOAA's importance to our community and economy (and to you), and advantages of the Lake Union site such as fresh water, no tides, and closeness to the labs at NOAA and UW, the maritime yards and suppliers, and the homes of NOAA employees (many are our neighbors and dedicated volunteers in community activities). We can't save NOAA without you!

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As shown here, there was no shoreline pathway between NOAA and Lake Union Drydock before January 2006, when ECC built one with \$20,000 in City money. Volunteers are needed to complete the landscaping with wildlife-friendly native plants.



Brian Carlson (center), owner and skipper of the crane barge Sea Horse, and his crew.



## ECC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

The Eastlake Community Council builds community and enhances the neighborhood only with your help. We are all-volunteer, so donations of cash, stock, bequests, or real estate go a long way. And most valuable to us are your skills and volunteer time. Interested? Write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), or phone 322-5463:

1. Nominate yourself or a friend to the ECC board of directors, which meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday.
2. Help organize an Eastlake auction, tour, art walk (see column), cruise, neighborhood-wide day of yard sales—or invent something new!
3. Care for a park, shoreline, street, alley, graffiti-marred area, or some other corner of creation
4. Help an ECC committee review land use projects or design traffic improvements
5. Distribute the Eastlake News on your block or nearby, or help edit it or sell ads.
6. Do a movie or video about Eastlake, or record pioneers to preserve our irreplaceable history (see calendar for training on oral history)
7. Organize a block or dock watch for crime prevention and disaster preparedness
8. Represent the neighborhood at the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition, [www.sngi.org/epcpc/epcpc.html](http://www.sngi.org/epcpc/epcpc.html)
9. Sand, finish, and label the growth rings of our cross-section of an historic apple tree from Eastlake's orchard era

Interested? Write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), or phone 322-5463.

### EMERGENCY AND POLICE NUMBERS

911	Crime, fire, health, or other emergency in progress	
526-2121	Washington Poison Center	684-7087
684-5797	Narcotics investigations	684-0330
684-5740	Investigations of burglary and theft	684-7587
684-4071	Harbor Police	386-7387
684-8763	Illegally parked or abandoned vehicles	684-7056
625-5011	Crime not requiring immediate response; parking enforcement	
684-7717	Advice on setting up a block watch or emergency team	
	Park security	
	Domestic violence	
	Graffiti and illegal dumping	
	Animal control	
	Street lights out or flickering	

Community police team: 684-4370, 684-4373 , Officer Tyrone Davis or [tyrone.davis@seattle.gov](mailto:tyrone.davis@seattle.gov)



Spliced together from an old dock, cedar logs are lifted over the trees.



A NOAA crew member helping the neighborhood build a shoreline pathway on Fairview Avenue East



Volunteer Christian Lint steadies a huge log, assisted by a Northern Marine Salvage and Development crew member.

## I-5 NOISE RETROFIT

The I-5 Ship Canal Bridge, completed in 1962, was designed without thought to noise. Noise from the lower and narrower express lane level bounces off the upper and wider general lane level, and then down into the surrounding neighborhood, which has the highest highway noise levels in the state, if not the nation. (Had the wider level been the lower one, most of the noise would have gone harmlessly upward.) Because of the noise coming from the express lanes, the Eastlake Community Council has worked successfully to keep them closed at night—11 p.m. to 5 a.m. weekdays and 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. weekends.

A high priority in the citizen-led 1998 Eastlake Neighborhood Plan was to retrofit I-5 to reduce noise. Our state legislators helped secure funding so that the Washington State Department of Transportation could install noise walls along Boylston Avenue E., with more to come. WSDOT is about to begin installing test sections of noise-absorbing ceiling panels on the Ship Canal Bridge. They will do so when the express lanes are closed, and there will be some nighttime construction noise, for the greater good of a permanent noise reduction. As test results and funds become available, WSDOT will eventually install more ceiling panels and also noise walls on the approaches to the Ship Canal Bridge where noise is particularly intense. WSDOT is also studying the possibility of quieter pavement (such as rubberized asphalt) for the Bridge.

A particular issue right now is that WSDOT's design for noise walls on Boylston Ave. E. south of Lynn Street contemplates narrowing the sidewalks in some places just a few inches less than the five feet required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. WSDOT claims that it may have to prohibit pedestrians on the east side of parts of Boylston, even though there are sidewalks and even bus stops there (a better solution is slightly narrowing the Boylston roadway). Also, WSDOT's design does not include planting wells that could allow vines to soften the appearance of the concrete walls, as can be seen on the Harvard Ave. side. Letters or e-mails to WSDOT, to Mayor Nickels (PO Box 94769, Seattle 98124-4749, [www.seattle.gov/mayor](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor)), and County Councilmember Larry Phillips (516 Third Ave. #1200, Seattle 98104-3272, [larry.phillips@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.phillips@metrokc.gov)) on these topics might make a difference; please also send us a copy.

The Eastlake Community Council needs volunteers to continue the neighborhood's successful advocacy in the noise reduction project. To volunteer, contact ECC Secretary Chris Leman, [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), (206) 322-5463. For further information on the current construction or to provide public comment, see the WSDOT web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/ShipCanalBridge>.



After constructing the first I-5 noise walls, WSDOT prohibited pedestrians on the east side of Boylston Ave. E. until SDOT tore the signs down. Now the signs may go up again unless we can persuade WSDOT not to narrow the sidewalks when installing the next noise walls.



The wooded approach to Colonnade Park before the Park Department logged the area in March 2007.



A woodland decimated. How could they have done this, and with no consultation or notice? Colonnade had precious few trees as it was.

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## FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST

The remorseless of time and fate hit hard this spring. On March 3, Eastlake lost two of its longest residents, James Reckers, Sr. and Ruth Presler. And on May 7, the neighborhood lost the much younger Craig Webster.

James Reckers, Sr., 1910-2007. Born in Seattle but grew up in White Salmon, Washington. He returned to Seattle in 1927 to work for Peoples National Bank, where he retired after 47 years. Upon their 1937 marriage, Reckers and his wife Helen moved into the LynnYale apartments, and while eventually moving to other parts of the city, they returned in 1974 to the house on Minor and, after losing Helen, where he lived the rest of his life (except for winters in Palm Springs). He was a classic Eastlake character—warm and dignified. ECC extends its condolences to his only child, Jim Reckers, Jr., who was holding his father's hand as he passed away. Jim reports that "Dad had a wonderful life with many joys. In Eastlake he found great comfort in 32 years of retirement."



Ruth J. Presler, 1913-2007. Having grown up in Spillville, Iowa (but with little desire to go back), Ruth worked as a dietitian at New York City's Montefiore Hospital, and then beginning in 1950 at Seattle's Harborview Hospital, retiring in 1975. She loved urban life and especially Eastlake, where she lived for more than 50 years, always as a renter. She was a strong supporter of the Eastlake Community Council, hand-delivering a route for the Eastlake News with her friend, the late Janet Jorgens. Ruth uncomplainingly suffered from osteoporosis, occasioning her frequently to say, "Don't get old!" What kept her going was a daily walk, at which she was unfailingly appreciative of the beauties achieved by gardeners in the neighborhood. In her advancing years, Ruth enjoyed these gardens while resting on benches and low walls at intervals on her walks.

Craig L. Webster, 1950-2007. We lost Craig when his Cessna caught fire and crashed in Utah returning from an architectural conference. Described in the Seattle P-I as "an adventurer who was always in motion on land, water, or in the air," he grew up on E. Newton Street in north Capitol Hill, attended Seward School, and now was an Eastlake houseboater whose business was also located in Eastlake. The P-I article found in Craig Webster a "fierce conviction that affordable housing could be well designed and that environmentally responsible construction should be strived for by every developer." Among his many architectural commissions was a co-housing project on Orcas Island. He had led a mission from the Seattle chapter of the American Institute of Architects to the Gulf Coast to help in Hurricane Katrina recovery. Craig spoke at the Eastlake Community Council's emergency preparedness meeting on March 20, and was preparing an article on the subject for this issue of the Eastlake News. He had chaired the Northwest Seaport Association in its efforts to save and restore the historic lumber schooner, Wawona, tugboat Arthur Foss, and lightship Swiftsure. An active member of the Lake Washington Rowing Club, Craig sculled on Lake Union at 5 a.m. almost every day. He was often seen with his beloved and well-behaved boxer dog, Sabakka. ECC extends its deepest condolences to Craig's wife and partner in adventure, Tasha Essen. Donations to Northwest Seaport "in remembrance of Craig L. Webster" may be sent to 1002 Valley St., Seattle, WA 98109.



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A longtime goal of reducing billboards in the neighborhood was advanced earlier this year with this removal.



Congratulations to the many volunteers who made possible this traffic circle at Franklin and Edgar.

## “THE EASTLAKE COMMUNITY WELCOMES YOU” – SIGN DONORS NEEDED


For the signs on Eastlake’s borders, lots of suggestions and discussion have produced a consensus message—“The Eastlake Community Welcomes You.” An anonymous donation has been received for one \$300 sign, and donations for four other signs are needed. (Send checks to ECC Sign Fund, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.) Now we are working with the City sign shop to find one or more designs that are uniquely Eastlake. Images that have been suggested include a bridge, a duck, or a lifesaving ring. Ideas are welcome, to Susan Savelle at Bridge Blond Salon, 2373 Eastlake Ave., Seattle 98102 (329-1362) and by e-mail to cleman@oo.net.

## JOIN THE CRIME-WATCH E-MAIL LIST

ECC is establishing an e-mail list for neighbors to share information with one another and with the Police Department about criminal situations. What break-ins, drug busts, etc. have occurred on your block or in your building? Is there anything all of us should watch out for? How can we best deter crime? Please write soon to cleman@oo.net or call (206) 322-5463. And especially, send your e-mail address if you would like to receive these regular alerts.

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### MOVING TO EUROPE - NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

by Usch Engelmann

I have very much enjoyed editing the Eastlake News for the past 4 years. However, since I will be moving to the Netherlands in a few months we are looking for someone who will take on this important job.

The Eastlake News is the most important means of communication within the community.

What I liked most about being the editor is knowing about everything that's going on in the neighborhood, and being able to chose in how far I wanted to get involved in additional activities. I have learned so much about how volunteers can get things done.

Please note that you don't need to be a designer or publicist for this task, just curious and somewhat savvy with the computer. Please email me if you want more detailed information about what is involved, file formats, timing etc.

I have also been serving as the advertising coordinator, a task that might best be done by someone other than the editor. If you are interested in either of these volunteer tasks, please e-mail me at [uengelmann@comcast.net](mailto:uengelmann@comcast.net), or call Chris Leman at (206) 322-5463.

It will not be easy to leave, in part because I know that Eastlake will not be the same the next time I see it. I wish you success in preserving the charm and human scale that make this neighborhood so special.

### THE ECC NEEDS YOU!



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## DEATH BY DEHYDRATION FOR PLANTS—UNLESS YOU HELP

Lack of rain in the summer and early fall makes it important to keep trees and shrubs watered. If you see a tree that's suffering from lack of water, mention it to someone at that address, and if necessary take action. Street trees are on public property, and there's no public purpose served in letting them die.

## EASTLAKE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Founded in 1990, ECLT exists to protect the interests of renters and to preserve and reclaim Eastlake's historic economic diversity. The Land Trust is seeking an apartment property to be operated with permanently affordable rents. In Eastlake's hot housing market, properties often sell soon after (or even before!) being listed. Thus the Land Trust appreciates the opportunity to make an offer before a property goes on the open market. As ECLT is tax-exempt, the donor of properties can realize significant tax advantages. If you have or know of a candidate property, please contact board member Paul Hanson, paul.kari@mac.com, 971-5610.



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- Household \$35
- Business \$75
- Senior Citizen/Student/Low Income \$10
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Make checks payable to ECC –  
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**Interests**

- Parks and Open Spaces
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- Building Guidelines
- Newsletter Distribution
- Fundraising
- Workparties
- Community Art Projects
- Community Meetings
- Event Planning

**Member Status**

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Eastlake News - a publication by the  
Eastlake Community Council  
117 E. Louisa Street, #1  
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**Editorial**

We welcome comments, articles or images for possible publication. Please submit documents to Usch at uengelmann@comcast.net.

**Advertising**

Contact Usch at uengelmann@comcast.net for information and pricing. The deadline for ad material is the 20th of the month before publication, e.g. 20 April for May/June issue.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:**

We are pleased that more and more Eastlakers send articles and photos to be published in the Eastlake News. We would like to thank them for their contributions, but at the same time, point out that these articles represent the view of the respective author, not necessarily of the ECC or The Eastlake News.

**Eastlake Community Council**  
**117 E. Louisa Street, #1**  
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If you did not receive this in the mail with a label attached with your name, then you are not a paying member of the Eastlake Community Council. We need your support, and you will receive benefits in return, so please send in your membership application today!