

**February 2005**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

# Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

[www.pigeonpoint.org](http://www.pigeonpoint.org)

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*Vice Chair, Communications: Matt Swenson (938-0161)*

*Vice Chair, Activities: Jane Lanning (932-2513)*

*Vice Chair, Meetings & Membership: Julia Hadley (935-6973)*

**Next Meeting: February 14, 7:00—8:30 PM @ New Cooper Elementary School**

## February 14<sup>th</sup> Agenda Items:

- **Radio Tower Petition**
- **Annual Spring Project**

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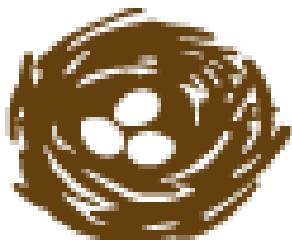
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## Old Cooper School Groundbreaking

**Join the "Bash" on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 1:00—4:00!**

For all Pigeon Point residents with an interest in our local artistic and cultural scene, the time for celebration is at hand! On February 12<sup>th</sup>, DNDA will throw a party at the Old Cooper School showcasing youth arts groups, live music and food, to mark the beginning of renovations that will transform the school into a Historic Cooper Cultural Arts Center. Renovation is planned for completion by the end of 2005.

Pacific Northwest Ballet will offer a dance class, Power of Hope a singing class, Arts Corps a drumming class and the Nature Consortium an arts class. There will also be art displays by future housing



tenants, a hands-on art class for kids and tours of the building. Best of all, you can swing a sledgehammer to help demolish an old wall!!

Here is the schedule:

- 1:00** - Tour the building, see art displays by local artists
- 1:30** - Mayor Greg Nickels visits, live entertainment, presentation on campaign
- 2:15** - Swing a sledgehammer, join in a group photo
- 2:45** - Attend free arts and music classes.

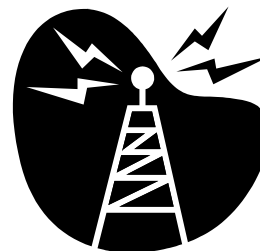
For more information on the Historic Cooper School Cultural Arts Center Project, please call 923-0917, extension 122, or email [ginah@dnda.org](mailto:ginah@dnda.org).

## Radio Tower Update

A quick story about how news travels fast in Seattle: in the last newsletter there was a small update about our ongoing problems with the radio tower on 21st Avenue. The story was then picked up by the City of Seattle; The Stranger and West Seattle Herald newspapers; and finally, by KOMO, who ran a piece on the evening news!

If you care about this issue, please attend the next Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council meeting to help us plan next steps.

All the recent media exposure will amount to nothing if we do not keep building momentum on this issue!



## Community Updates

- **WANTED:** Two strong volunteers with a pickup truck and refrigerator dolly, to move a refrigerator from 19th Avenue SW to Vivian MacLean's garage. If you can help, please call Joan at 935-1954.
- **SPRING CLEAN** is coming. The Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council needs your ideas on projects that will beautify our neighborhood, using volunteer (that's us!) labor and ordinary tools. Please call Jane Lanning at 932-2513.
- **GARDEN TOUR** planning will also begin soon. Please call Jane Lanning at 932-2513 if you are interested in participating, and especially, if you have a beautiful garden you are willing to share with your neighbors!
- **CAR CONCERNS:** Be careful! There have been a number of car prowls lately. Also, drivers have often been noticed cutting corners at Charleston and 20th-21st Avenue, as well as speeding to and from Cooper Elementary School.

## Negro Leagues Baseball Exhibit

In 1993 the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum created a traveling exhibit that has been booked solid ever since, visiting major East Coast museums, the White House and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. This wonderful exhibit, never before displayed on the West Coast in its entirety, has come to Chief Sealth High School as part of Sealth's nationally acclaimed Legends Project. The Legends Project focuses on researching Race and Social Justice Issues.

The Negro Leagues began in the 1880s, forming more than 200 all-black independent baseball teams in response to a segregated professional sports system. In 1920, the Negro League evolved into two major clubs, the Negro National League and the Negro Southern League. These clubs, aided by the new Negro American League formed in 1937, were instrumental in Jackie



Robinson's acceptance to the Montreal Royals on April 18, 1946, and to the New York Dodgers one year later. As the color barrier dissolved, the Negro Leagues lost their best talent and ultimately ended in 1962, closing one of the most significant chapters of American history.

This exhibit is free to the public and open until 9 pm during the week and on Saturday. It is housed in the library at Chief Sealth High School. Many Pigeon Point residents have already seen it. If you have even a passing interest in baseball, don't miss this extraordinary opportunity right here in own backyard. **Hurry—the exhibit ends on February 11<sup>th</sup>!**

## Changing Times, Pt. 2

### ***This is the conclusion of a two-part interview with Vivian MacLean.***

In the 1950s, Pigeon Point was a true middle-class neighborhood. A local road grader who came each year loved Pigeon Point because of all the children who lived there. However, at the same time many vacant lots used as playfields disappeared, driving children onto the streets and encouraging delinquency.

The 1960s and 1970s were difficult years for Pigeon Point. Still, there were memorable moments: when Vivian's family started the first area garden; and, when a lumberyard at the base of Pigeon Point caught fire, covering everything with soot and forcing residents to hose down their roofs!

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Pigeon Point residents protected their neighborhood's tranquility. That ended in the early 1990s, when Pigeon Point was "discovered" by developers. Builders were initially local residents, but others were less sensitive: one Bellevue

developer even tried to rename Pigeon Point!

Another watershed was the building of Cooper Elementary School. When the old Cooper School closed, Vivian and others pressed the City of Seattle to guarantee its replacement. As a new school, Cooper Elementary has sometimes struggled for recognition; nonetheless, it is a neighborhood treasure. Over 30 languages have been spoken in its halls!

As for the origin of Pigeon Point's name, Vivian reports having heard three stories:

- The appetite of some Riverside residents for pigeon pot pies!
- Rare "white pigeons" living in the greenbelt
- Pigeons who roosted here and ate waste from the Fisher flour mill

*Vivian asked that this article be dedicated to past neighborhood leaders Greg Davis, Bill Johns and Robert Shampain; and, to present leader Pete Spalding. Thank you, Vivian!*

## Making Noise over Trains

New federal regulations require all trains to sound their horns at crossings so as not to run over the unaware. The switch-engines at Terminal 5 shuttle up and down West and East Marginal Ways throughout the day, and are even required to sound their horns crossing driveways of industrial sites along the Duwamish. Increased train noise has been noted at all times of day, including very early in the morning.

If you are troubled by noise pollution from train horns, please contact George Blomberg at the Port of Seattle Engineering Noise Control, at 728-3194. Mr. Blomberg is in contact with train operators and believes if trains move slowly enough, a bell may suffice. Please call to voice your concern—remember, problems rarely solve themselves!

