

**June 2005**

# Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

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

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**Next Meeting: June 13, 7:00—8:30 PM @ New Cooper Elementary School**

## June 13 Agenda Items:

- Dow Constantine discusses Boeing Field flight path changes
- Graffiti and public safety discussion

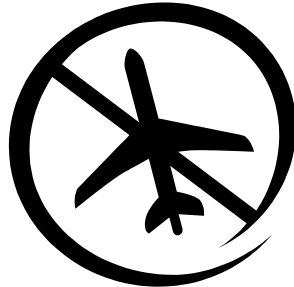
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## Watch the Skies!

At their May 19 meeting, the Alki Community Council discussed a potential nuisance to West Seattle: aircraft noise. At the request of Magnolia residents, King County International Airport (i.e., Boeing Field) is considering changes to its landing pattern that would move planes’ flight path west of their present course, closer to Duwamish Head and Pigeon Point.

At the meeting, King County Councilmember Dow Constantine urged West Seattle to look out for its interests. Alki residents discussed their concerns about not only increased noise pollution, but also



the visual disturbance of planes passing overhead several times daily.

Come to the June Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council meeting for more details. Dow

Constantine will be at our meeting. We must work together to make our voices heard! To register an individual objection to the proposed changes, please contact KCIA Director Bob Burke at (206) 296-7380; at [robert.burke@metrokc.gov](mailto:robert.burke@metrokc.gov); or, by sending mail to Robert Burke, KCIA, 7217 Perimeter Rd, PO Box 80245, Seattle, WA 98108.

## Graffiti Alert

There has been an increase recently in “tagging”, of sign posts, street signs and other structures in our neighborhood. If you notice any graffiti, please call the City of Seattle’s Graffiti Hotline at 684-7587. You can also notify Pete Spalding at 933-6587.

If graffiti isn’t immediately addressed, it only invites more vandalism. The same rule applies to other crimes, such as vehicle break-ins: if police are not notified, they will not increase their vigilance, and these problems will only get worse! If you are the victim of a crime, please notify the authorities as soon as possible.

## The Worst of Times

Do you know how to call for help when the power is out and the phone lines are jammed? Are your neighbors aware of your special needs in the event of a disaster? How will the city know if there’s a gas leak on your street or a person in critical need of medical assistance?

Seattle Disaster Aid and Response Teams (SDART) are Seattle’s answer to the above questions. On May 14, several Pigeon Point residents took part in an exercise to test our neighborhood’s emergency preparedness. Participating neighbors received information on what happened to 20 houses on their block following an “earthquake”, then had to write and deliver reports to the nearest Emergency Operations Center (at the Delridge Community Center). There, ham radio operators transmitted the reports to city government for help.

The “Seattle Fault” poses a significant threat to our neighborhood. Several blocks have already created emergency response teams through SDART. SDART also provides excellent information on how to secure your home and what to do, should a disaster occur. To get involved, contact LuAnn Johnson, SDART Program Manager, at 233-7123.

## The Art of Aikido

Last November, West Seattle Aikikai opened its doors just off the intersection of Dakota St and West Marginal Way (an easy walk for Pigeon Point residents!). This school teaches Aikido, a traditional Japanese martial art that uses joint locks, throws and holds against opponents. Because it is purely defensive, Aikido is often called the “non-aggressive” martial art of Japan.

West Seattle Aikikai’s founder, Darren McKee, has taught Aikido since 1982. He emphasizes that Aikido is an

art tailored to each student, so both teenagers and 60-year-olds can enjoy it (though they may practice it differently!). Among its benefits, Aikido helps to increase flexibility, mobility, and gives students a sense of balance or “centeredness”.

Aikido students all begin by learning basic warm-up exercises and “ukemi”, or how to fall and roll safely. Only then are students allowed to practice with others. In addition to unarmed techniques, students may also learn

traditional Japanese fencing, or “iaido” or Iaido. Because Aikido is taught as an art, not a sport, it holds no tournaments or contests.

Aikido was developed by the Japanese master Morihei Ueshiba, who passed away in 1969. Ueshiba believed that Aikido was a way to achieve inner and outer peace—not exactly what one associates with martial arts!

West Seattle Aikikai has about 15 students at present, but *sensei* (or “teacher”) McKee hopes to double that

number, and could accommodate up to 100 students. If you would like to stop by the school and watch a class, Beginners’ Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00. More information and directions are available by calling 935-3598 or visiting

[www.westseattleaikikai.com](http://www.westseattleaikikai.com)

Whether you’re interested in practicing Aikido, or just in learning more about this complex and fascinating art, visiting West Seattle Aikikai is a new experience!

## Spring Activities Report

**Spring Clean:** A little drizzle didn't stop neighbors from helping out on April 30 at the Welcome to Pigeon Point park on 22nd. In a few hours, the crew laid a new row of bricks, weeded, transplanted and added a new step and bench! A big thanks to Scott, Jim and Sharon, Kerry, Paula and Jim, Jane, Lorraine, April, Jennifer, and Miles.

On a lower note, someone broke into and filled the free dumpster provided by the City of Seattle about 25% full with construction materials before anyone else arrived. This could make it hard to obtain a dumpster next year, as construction materials are specifically prohibited by the City from being discarded in dumpsters “donated” to neighborhoods. Please follow guidelines so we can enjoy using the dumpster in future years! *(Thanks to Joan Capell for the photos. See the website for more.)*



*Pete Spalding and Ed Doyne organize the dumpster*

**Garden Tour:** The second annual Pigeon Point garden tour was a grand success! The weather cooperated as seventeen neighbors took in the delights of six local gardens. The early birds met at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW Bicycle Park and enjoyed Sharon and Jim’s historical remarks of the making of this park. Others joined in at Dan’s and learned his secret for keeping raccoons out of his pond. Some of the specimens in his garden were unique and neighbors had many questions for him. Who would have thought of making a fountain out of a tuba? Jennifer and Jack did just that and have it as a centerpiece in their garden. Ed and Lorraine shared their spectacular view of Elliott Bay while the tour members grazed and gazed. Helen’s veggies, bees and garden creatures (only those on the tour know what I mean) added the utilitarian element while Juanita’s New Orleans-inspired court yard created quite a buzz. A potluck lunch followed, allowing neighbors to continue sharing neighborhood stories and garden successes. A sincere “thank you” to our garden owners for sharing their private worlds, as well as to all of those who participated. Without all of you, there would not have been a tour or the memories!

## Supporting “Our” School

The Cooper School PTA recently survived a bruising battle with Seattle Public Schools, over SPS’ proposal to eliminate the Cooper School community and move the Pathfinder K-8 alternative school into the facility. However, the fight is not over! Cooper School still needs our support to give its kids the best education possible. Many short-term or even one-time volunteer opportunities are available; to learn more, contact Cooper School PTA president Shannon Woodbury at 937-0520 or [stc\\_woodburys@msn.com](mailto:stc_woodburys@msn.com). Please help to keep this Pigeon Point treasure alive and well!