

**FEBRUARY  
2006**

# Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

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

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*Council Chair: Pete Spalding (933-6587)*  
*Vice Chair, Activities: Jane Lanning (932-2513)*  
*Secretary: Sharon Price (935-1532)*

*Vice Chair, Communications: Matt Swenson (938-0161)*  
*Vice Chair, Meetings & Membership: Julia Hadley (935-6973)*  
*Treasurer & Webmaster: Kerry L. Hughes (933-6587)*

**Next Meeting: February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00–9:00 PM, Cooper Elementary School (19<sup>th</sup> and Genesee)**

## February 13th Agenda Items:

1. Plans for 2006
2. Meet your neighbors
3. Have FUN

### Election of New PPNC Officers—Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

Please attend the Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council's February 13th meeting! At this meeting, we will nominate and vote upon new officers to govern the PPNC over the next year(s).

Pigeon Point is a vibrant neighborhood thanks to the love and labor of many residents who have improved its streets, fought back developers, and influenced public policy through citizen activism.

This legacy must be protected by new leaders willing to step forward to honor

those who have served Pigeon Point in the past, and who are committed to keeping Pigeon Point a wonderful place to live. Here are brief summaries of the positions to be filled on February 13th:

Council Chair—Leads the effort to strengthen its commitment to continually improve our home.

Vice Chairs—Specialize in supporting

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the Chair in the areas of organizing activities, communications and developing long-term goals for Pigeon Point.

### Cultural Arts Center Opens—Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> by Matt Swenson

A house of wonder will soon open on Pigeon Point. Thanks to the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, (DNDA), the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center will provide 18,000 square feet on the ground floor of the old Frank B. Cooper School of classes, performances and office space for nonprofit agencies that focus on arts and culture, especially those serving youth. The school's old auditorium has become a beautiful performance hall named after Thelma Dewitty, Seattle's first black public school teacher, who began her career at Cooper School in 1947. The upper three floors have been transformed into 36 live-in studios occupied by painters, sculptors and even a trapeze artist! A new entrance and parking lot have been created at the building's north end. The final cost of this top-to-bottom renovation is in excess of \$12 million. **Please come to the Center's February 24<sup>th</sup> grand opening at 6-10 P.M., which will feature a variety of free performances and rare tours of artists' studios!**

The old Cooper School was central to Pigeon Point. PP residents' children attended the school until it was closed in 1989 due to seismic concerns. Pigeon Point residents were part of neighborhood advisory groups that over 10 years ago requested that the building house artistic and cultural activities. The Cultural Arts Center will offer many classes and performances for adults and children. A schedule of activities is on the Center's website—[www.youngstownarts.org](http://www.youngstownarts.org)—or may be obtained by calling 935-2999. Now great entertainment will only be a two-minute drive or a five-minute walk away! However, there is no such thing as a free lunch. To remain strong, the Center will need our support. All kinds of volunteer opportunities are available by contacting Jordan Howland at 935-2999 or [jordanh@dnda.org](mailto:jordanh@dnda.org). Stop by the new Cultural Arts Center after February 24<sup>th</sup> and take a look inside—you will find treasures galore!

Please make the new residents at Youngstown feel welcome to our neighborhood. We also wish to extend an invitation to all of our new residents to join us in our efforts to make Pigeon Point a great place to call home.



## ***Pigeon Hill—Of Yesteryear*** by Lorraine Lofgren

***Thanks to all who contributed poems in honor of Pigeon Point! Here is one entry; others will be printed in future issues.***

Before Microsoft...before the West Seattle Bridge...before the Space Needle...before the Seafair pirates had to give up burning their boat in Elliot Bay...before the Kalakala sailed off into the sunset for the last time...and when the beautiful little Smith Tower still shone as the tallest building west of the Mississippi...there was Pigeon Hill.

A walk through time reveals a simpler time—tearing open long-lost memories of a time when it snowed and there were actually things called blizzards (and not from Dairy Queen), where roads were unpaved, wooden sidewalks still existed, soldiers guarded the Alaska Communications Center, dogs had their freedom without being chastised, where one could still find Indian arrowheads, where one could explore the Duwamish River without fences barring you from adventures on the river's murky shores, and even farther back, yet within my family's lifetime, one could still be heard saying, "Let's go look for bears!"

It's where this kid grew up, as her long-lost playmate would say, "in a magical garden", long lost to time now, but appearing to an old-timer like an Angkor Wat on the top of Pigeon Hill.

***Once upon a time this was "Scandinavian Hill"  
Yes, that's truly what it was  
And a few remnants remain here still!***

***There is 'ole Paul Shelvog, Johnny Larsen,  
Garret Sathre and Mrs. Wahl too,  
who could all relate great stories,  
that would truly be true-blue.***

***Although I had a paper route (West Seattle Herald)  
It never made me rich,  
So at the same time I collected old beer bottles,  
And hid them in the ditch.***

***When enough had been collected,  
Off to John Scott's store on 20<sup>th</sup> I'd happily ride,  
Exchanging the bottles for penny-candy and the like,  
Heading merrily back home on my blue Schwinn bike.***

***Thoughts go back to the WWII housing projects,  
And a great place to play,  
Especially when it came time for them to be taken away.  
Us kids, we snooped and ran the empty halls,  
Finding a few treasures, like mirrors upon the walls.***

***Dogs were in dog-heaven in those days  
As they roamed the streets so free,  
Of course there were a few problems,  
But minimal to be.***

***The neighborhood favorite was Teddy my dog,  
So faithful to my girlfriend and me,  
He had his favorite hangouts and friends to go and see.***

***Teddy was an angel unawares,  
Who protected two little girls without cares.  
The "Big Woods" (now known as the Greenbelt)  
These little girls would roam,  
Who never had any fear in this place they called "home".***

***There were still some wooden sidewalks  
If you can believe that!  
Which many times in icy weather,  
I fell upon and sat!!!***

***Snow...what is it now to Pigeon Hill?  
Just a memory of more fun and magical times,  
When there were tons of snow,  
Where one built giant snowmen and igloos all aglow.***

***The blizzard of '49 can be remembered oh, so well,  
Trudging home from Cooper School, freezing to my "gizzard",  
When my father approached,  
Like an apparition in the blinding blizzard!!***

***We had a goat named Billy, who was actually very cool,  
He tagged along where ere we went,  
Even to Cooper School.***

***One day he came up missing,  
He had landed himself in "jail",  
We finally thought to call the pound,  
And got him out on "bail!"  
Could it have been because he munched on neighbors' roses,  
And other delicious tasty posies?***

***Pigeon Hill leaves memories of simpler times, you see,  
No dangers at night, fences were few,  
No locked doors 'cause you didn't need a key,  
But one special memory that epitomizes Pigeon Hill  
Will always remain with me!***

***Of course we know the pigeons are still around today,  
And they too have a tale to tell,  
Perhaps they'd say, "a tale from hell!"***

***...to be concluded...***