

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

www.pigeonpoint.org

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Next Meeting: HOLIDAY PARTY, December 5th, 6:00–9:00 PM, 3814 20th Ave SW

December 5th Agenda Items:

1. Plans for 2006
2. Meet your neighbors
3. Eat a lot of great food
4. Have FUN

Pigeon Point Holiday Party

Shall we gather together

Regardless of weather

To greet our old friends

Before the year ends?

Please join us at Vivian McLean's residence at 3814 20th Ave SW from 6:00—9:00 P.M. on Monday, December 5th, for Pigeon Point's annual holiday party.

This longstanding tradition is a great opportunity to meet neighbors old and new, enjoy holiday snacks, discuss high and low points of 2005 and make plans for 2006.

All Pigeon Point residents are



invited. This is a potluck, so please bring a favorite dish of your choice. Please consider bringing one nonperishable food item as well; these donations will be delivered to the West Seattle Food Bank.

A brief Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council meeting will also be held at 7:00. Please come and help to celebrate the season!

Pigeon Point Represents at the Gathering of Neighbors!

On Saturday November 5th over 80 neighborhood councils, non-profit and social service agencies representing our wide ranging communities of West Seattle gathered at West Seattle High School for the 2nd Annual Gathering of Neighbors. This event was originally envisioned by the Delridge Neighborhoods District Council and has been facilitated by a local non-profit Megawatt. The purpose of this event is to help all of our neighbors in West Seattle discover additional resources available to them. It also allows them to meet their neighbors from across the street or in an adjoining neighborhood and this building of one's network is an excellent way to help build a sense of community within our existing community.

The day also included an abundance of food and entertainment in addition to the Expo area. During the course of the day over 500 of our neighbors came to this event. Thanks to our neighbors from Pigeon Point that took a couple of hours out of their Saturday to help staff our booth at the Gathering of Neighbors. If you would be interested in helping to plan for the 3rd Annual Gathering of Neighbors please contact Pete Spalding.

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Holiday Memories

Stories of winters from Pigeon Point's past:

1930s: *During the Depression, Erma Schwartz and two friends once walked from home all the way to West Seattle High School in a blizzard to save the cost of streetcar fare. "Abbe Cash [the boys' advisor] met us at the door and he said, 'You crazy kids. Why did you come?' Well, that was a letdown after we had struggled all that way to get up there in the snow storm." The children warmed up in a room of the school and then trudged back down the hill.*

1949: *A blizzard and an earthquake both struck Seattle. Cliff Davidson was on the waterfront with his buddies when the earthquake struck. They were throwing caps with ball bearings wrapped in aluminum on the railroad tracks. One of his buddies said, "Watch this!" and when he threw his, the whole world started shaking. The tracks were bucking, and the boys could hear windows blowing out of the buildings on Spokane Street. They all sat on a knoll and watched the top of the radio tower break off on Duwamish Head.*

Pigeon Point 1st Annual Poetry Contest

Want to be crowned Pigeon Point's Poet Laureate? As a break from the usual neighborhood goings-on, here's a challenge to all Pigeon Pointers: write a brief poem describing what you like most (or least) about our neighborhood! Entries may be sent to matts323@comcast.net or slipped through the mail slot at 4156 20th Ave SW. Winners will be printed in the February 2006 Pigeon Point newsletter.

This is a great opportunity to have fun expressing your feelings about Pigeon Point, and perhaps inspire your neighbors! Please sign your entry unless you wish to remain anonymous. Humor is welcome, but no coarse language or jokes, please.

To inaugurate this contest, here is a 1961 poem mentioning Pigeon Point by Richard Hugo, the famous Seattle poet:

WEST MARGINAL WAY

One tug pounds to haul an afternoon of logs up river. The shade of Pigeon Hill across the bulges in the concrete crawls on reeds in a short field, cools a pier and the violence of young men after cod. The crackpot chapel, with a sign erased by rain, returned before to calm and a mossed roof.

A dim wind blows the roses growing where they please. Lawns are wild and lots are undefined as if the payment made in cash were counted then and there.

These names on boxes will return with salmon money in the fall, come drunk down the cinder arrow of a trail, past the store of Popich, sawdust piles and the saw mill bombing air with optimistic sparks, blinding gravel pits and the brickyard baking, to wives who taught themselves the casual thirst of many summers wet in heat and taken by the sea.

Some places are forever afternoon. Across the road and a short field there is the river, split and yellow and this far down affected by the tide.



Footsteps in the Greenbelt

While taking a casual walk in Pigeon Point Park behind Cooper Elementary School, you will find a network of half-overgrown trails leading down to Puget Creek and up the other side to South Seattle Community College and beyond. A local group named rTrip, or the Riverview Trail Improvement Project, has been working for years to develop these trails into a 10' wide paved, multiple-use path beginning at SW Hudson Street on the north, continuing alongside South Seattle Community College, and ending at Riverview Playfield on the south.

rTrip was formed in the fall of 2000 and has received over \$63,000 in government grants to assess the trail's feasibility and (with assistance from EarthCorps) reforest 20+ acres of the West Duwamish Greenbelt near South Seattle Community College. For more information about rTrip and its current activities, visit www.rtrip.org.

