

October 2005

Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

www.pigeonpoint.org

Email: pigeonpointcouncil@comcast.net

Council Chair: Pete Spalding (933-6587)

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

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

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

Secretary: Sharon Price

Treasurer & Webmaster: Kerry L. Hughes

Next Meeting: October 10, 7:00—8:30 PM @ New Cooper Elementary School

October 10th Agenda Items:

- **Discussion of neighborhood concerns**
- **Noise Issues**

Neighborhood News

Updates on issues important to Pigeon Point residents!

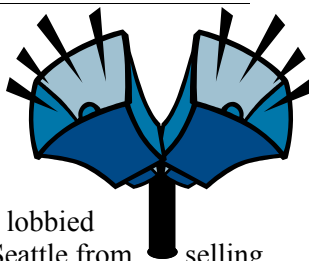
Boeing Field: As reported earlier, Boeing Field is considering a new “LDA” (Localizer Directional Aid) flight path that will move air traffic 500+ feet closer to Pigeon Point, greatly increasing jet engine noise and pollution. This plan confers *no* practical benefit to Boeing Field and will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement.

Additional public hearings and comments are needed before Boeing Field can adopt this new flight path. Pigeon Point residents have a chance to speak up about the impact of this change on our neighborhood. To do so, please contact:

- King County Executive Ron Sims, at 296-4040, exec.sims@metrokc.gov, or 701 5th Ave., Ste 3210, Seattle, WA 98104;
- King County Council members (a full list of council members’ contact information is available at www.metrokc.gov/mkcc); or,
- KCIA Director Robert Burke, at 296-7380, robert.burke@metrokc.gov, or Robert Burke, KCIA Director, 7277 Perimeter Rd, PO Box 80245, Seattle, WA 98108.

Soundway:

A group of Delridge residents have successfully lobbied the City of Seattle from selling the “Soundway West” property, near South Seattle Community College and west of 13th Avenue SW, for residential development.



This land is vital open space because of its proximity to the West Duwamish Greenbelt, South Seattle Community College and the proposed Riverview trail. The wetlands and steep slopes on parts of the site and vegetation provide rich habitat for flora and fauna. More details are at www.soundway.org.

...and there’s more! Want to receive breaking news on Pigeon Point? Just email pigeonpointcouncil@comcast.net to be added to our e-mail list. Bulletins are infrequent and your email address will not be revealed to other recipients. If you have any questions feel free to call Pete Spalding at 933-6587 (home) or 579-4373 (cell).

In this Issue:

Neighborhood News	1
Preparing for Disaster	1
Studying the Past	2
A Birder’s Paradise	2

Preparing for Disaster

Residents of the 4100 block of 20th SW recently met to review a neighborhood disaster plan created one year ago using the City of Seattle’s Disaster Aid and Response Teams (SDART) model. The plan addresses seven key areas deemed essential to ensuring people’s safety in the event of a natural disaster. Teams of 2-3 volunteers were assigned to activities such as search and rescue, providing First Aid and housing displaced neighbors.

While national news has focused on hurricanes Katrina and Rita, earthquakes are our greatest concern. We also found out that we lack access to some essential items such as a generator or chain saw. Please consider joining a volunteer team or helping to write a disaster plan for your block! Contact either Jane Lanning (932-2513) or Joni Swenson (938-0161) for more information.

Do YOU live on 22nd or 23rd Avenue SW? If so, we want to hear your ideas or concerns! Please attend our meeting or email pigeonpointcouncil@comcast.net.

Studying the Past

The Frank B. Cooper Elementary School will reopen in January 2006 as the Historic Cooper Cultural Arts Center, offering Pigeon Point residents a variety of educational and artistic opportunities an easy stroll away. **What is the history of this imposing building?**

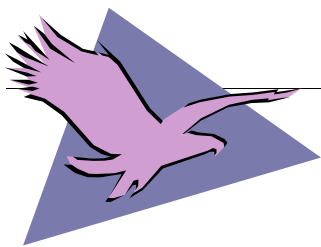
In 1906, the settlement of Youngstown (named after the hometown of Pacific Steel Mill owners William Pigott and Judge Wilson) opened one room in a tiny building to educate millworkers' children. 70 children showed up for school the first day, divided into two grades and two rooms. A hand-bell rang the start of the school day, a bell still present at the school today!

When West Seattle was annexed in 1907, the school district constructed a wood-frame building with classrooms for grades 1-8. As the United States entered World War I, a new five-room brick building was erected next to the wooden building, and the bell moved to the new school. Even when it opened, the school was overcrowded, and portables were erected during both World Wars.

In the 1920's, a new eight-room school was joined to the older school at Cooper, designed by architect Floyd A. Naramore. The new building wasn't quite finished when school started in the fall of 1929. In 1930, to escape Youngstown's stigma as a "company town", the school was renamed after Frank B. Cooper, a progressive superintendent of Seattle schools.

In 1947, Thelma Fisher DeWitty began at the Cooper School as the first African-American teacher in the Seattle School District. By 1951, an estimated 1,000 students had completed eighth grade at Cooper. After a Cooper student had been hit and killed by a car on Delridge Way, a pedestrian overpass was built to the park and opened in April, 1960.

The school's enrollment peaked at about 780 students in the 1960s. By 1980, overcrowding meant that every classroom was full. Enrollment was limited, and in 1989 the entire school was closed due to seismic safety concerns. In 1999, the new Cooper Elementary School was completed in Pigeon Point. The old Cooper School remained a prominent landmark, though, and in February 2005, work began to transform it into the arts and culture center that will open soon!



A Birder's Paradise

Pigeon Point residents often say that one of our neighborhood's greatest treasures is the abundance of local birds. What highlights can a novice birder expect? Here are a few tips:

Eagles: Eagles' nests are located behind the Seattle Parks Department building on West Marginal Way and in a big cottonwood tree across from Salty's on Alki. During the right season, you can spot eagles 2-4 times daily flying overhead to hunt in Puget Sound for fish, ducks, and the odd crow! Eagles are slowly returning to Seattle after decades of DDT poisoning. Ospreys, relatives of eagles, also nest in many places along the Duwamish River.

Ducks: Green-wing teals, resembling mallards and smaller than common ducks, are now migrating to Pigeon Point. Female ducks and fledglings have arrived and males will appear soon. A great birding spot for ducks and other waterfowl is the Kellogg Island/Terminal 107/Herring's House park (make sure that your car is carefully secured!).

Purple Martins: These birds resemble swallows with black plumage that gleams violet in sunlight. Purple martins live in holes and dead parts of trees. Their habitat was stolen by non-native European starlings who arrived in 1948, but these birds were saved thanks to artificial nests built at Jack Block Park and Kellogg Island. Next summer, watch for them flying over the meadows in Pigeon Point Park.

...and this is just the beginning! Our neighborhood is home to many migrant songbirds: Western tanager, warblers, vireos, and others. A useful book for the novice birder is *Birds of Seattle and Puget Sound*, by Chris C. Fisher. David Allen Sibley's *Field Guides* are more comprehensive resources. Happy birdwatching!