

August
2004

Pigeon Point Neighborhood News

www.pigeonpoint.org

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

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Next Meeting: October 11, 7:00 to 8:30 PM @ Cooper Elementary School 19th & Genesee SW

The August 3rd City Night Out replaces our August council meeting! The next Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council meeting will take place in October. Enjoy the summer! ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

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Radio Tower Petition *by Pete Spalding*

- Do you hear Radio Disney through your baby monitor?
- Will your burglar alarm or sprinkler system not work due to noise on the monitored phone line?
- Have you had to switch to a DSL or broadband internet connection due to phone line static?
- Are you unable to send faxes, or can't talk on your phone because of radio programs playing in the background?

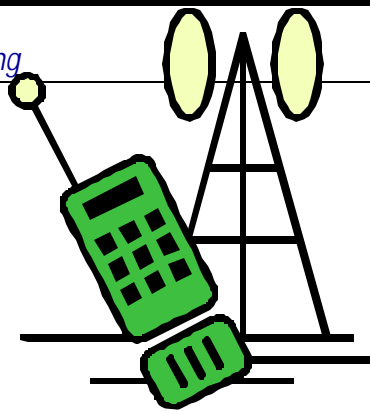
Many of your neighbors experience these problems on a daily basis. The cause of this interference is the radio tower located on 21st Ave SW in our neighborhood. Neighbors have tried working with the radio stations, the owner of the tower (SRO), and the telephone company. They have given us so many useless filters to block this interference that we could stock an electronics store. Even purchasing top-quality phone systems has not permanently solved the problem.

At the last neighborhood council meeting, it was decided to file a formal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The first step in this process will be to get as many residents of Pigeon Point

as possible to sign a petition requesting that this problem be solved once and for all.

The council is also asking that if you have a problem of the sort mentioned above, that you write it down and deliver it to Pete Spalding at 4107 20th Ave SW. We will then attach all of the accumulated letters of complaint to our petition. These documents will be forwarded to the FCC, Mayor Greg Nickels, all City Council members, King County Council member Dow Constantine, and our legislative representatives in Olympia and Washington, DC.

If you have not had an opportunity to sign the petition by the time you read this and would like to do so, please contact Pete Spalding at (206) 933-6587 or at pigeonpointcouncil@comcast.net.



8/3 City Night Out *by Jane D. Lanning*

Get ready to party! Pigeon Point's annual City Night Out celebration will take place on Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00—8:30 P.M. at the corner of 20th Avenue SW and Dakota St. Please come, meet your neighbors, eat tasty food, relax and enjoy the warm summer evening!

Picnic tables, a grill, some chairs, beverages and condiments will be provided. Please bring a chair and something to share! If you have any questions, please call Mary

22nd Ave Block Party

by Jim & Sharon Price

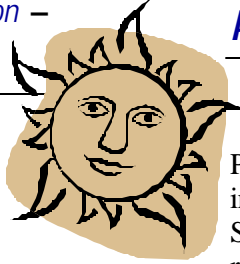
The annual potluck and block watch meeting for neighbors on 22nd Avenue SW north of Andover will be held in the grassy lot between the path to the staircase and Bob's garage (3645) Wed., 8/18, at 6 P.M.

Please come and help Steve Daley, our block watch captain, update our information exchange list. There will be block watch window stickers for sale and Jackson will try to get an outdoor movie set up for us. Come, socialize and have fun! Whatever eats people bring will be greatly appreciated.

August Gardening Tips *by Joni Swenson* –

Thank you for your sage advice, Heather!!!

- Order bulbs early and save!
- Plant overwintering veggie seeds (heartly greens like lettuce, mustard, collard & kale, radishes, carrots, beets, green onions, etc.).
- Be wary of more aggressive wasps & yellow jackets!
- Efficient Watering: water in the early morning or evening, around plants' root zones.
- Water well-established trees and shrubs with a slow drip once a month.
- Prune dead wood on deciduous shrubs or trees.
- Make fall plans: plant peonies, trees & shrubs and MULCH!



A Window into the Past *by Matthew Swenson*

As part of a new continuing feature on Pigeon Point's history, I interviewed Alfred Scott, a Pigeon Point resident with 90 years of stories to tell! Alfred was born in 1914 in Pigeon Point. His family moved to the Orkney Isles in Scotland, but returned to West Seattle in 1918.

Before WWII, Alfred Scott recalls seeing many wooden ships built on Harbor Island and along the Duwamish River. From the 1920s to the 1940s, Pigeon Point residents were primarily Norwegian or Swedish shipbuilders and salmon fishermen. Some worked at the Bethlehem Steel plant, but most steel plant workers lived on the other side of the Delridge valley, in Youngstown.

Alfred confirmed that Pigeon Point earned its name from the wild pigeons who inhabited it! Pigeon Point was also a home to pheasants, raccoons and many other animals who lived in the greenbelt and in a cattail-filled swamp occupied today by the new Cooper Elementary School.

Alfred's parents built a grocery store in the late 1920s, located on the corner of 20th and Andover. They first

rented it to other neighbors, who operated it as a mom-and-pop grocery store. The store was a major gathering place for local residents; in time, Alfred's brother John even added a nearby butcher shop and grocery delivery service! In the 1940s, larger stores opened nearby and Pigeon Point's sole grocery store was forced out of business. It's still missed to this day!

During WWII, a Strategic Air Command base was built where the new Cooper Elementary School stands now. 200 or so military personnel moved to Pigeon Point, living in temporary military single-residence housing. Most of these houses were torn down after the war, leaving vacant lots that remained empty for up to 10 years. The SAC base was later converted by the University of Washington into a research laboratory.

After WWII, Pigeon Point suffered as the wartime shipbuilding boom came to an end, and many original neighborhood residents passed away. Alfred Scott is pleased to learn that Pigeon Point is once again a thriving community!

Thank you, Alfred! If you are a longtime resident of Pigeon Point with stories to share, please call Matthew Swenson at (206) 938-0161.

Community Events Calendar *by Pete Spalding*

Other local events, issues and happenings of note!

- A request for an Environmental Impact Study has been issued for the 10-Year Comp Plan for South Seattle Community College. There are big plans under way to increase the number of buildings and students at this nearby institution.
- School will be starting again at Cooper before we know it! Please take the time to let the school administration know that this is a residential neighborhood, and we would appreciate it if parents and others visiting the school slow down as they drive through Pigeon Point.
- Now that the location of the monorail station has been approved, please continue to give your input about concerns that you would like to see addressed in its design! Station area planning meetings will take place this summer and fall.
- For more information on any of these issues, please contact Pete Spalding at (206) 933-6587 or at pigeonpointcouncil@comcast.net.

THANK YOU to everyone who returned your neighborhood feedback surveys! Results will be reported in the next newsletter issue. Your feedback will be used to set the Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council's agenda and priorities.

If you didn't receive a survey, you're in luck—a second copy is attached! Please return your completed survey by (1) bringing it to the August 3rd City Night Out, or (2) pushing it through the mail slot at 4156 20th Ave SW. Thank you for helping to identify what makes Pigeon Point unique!