

The Breeze

Of
Park Point
November 2005
Vol.34 issue 11

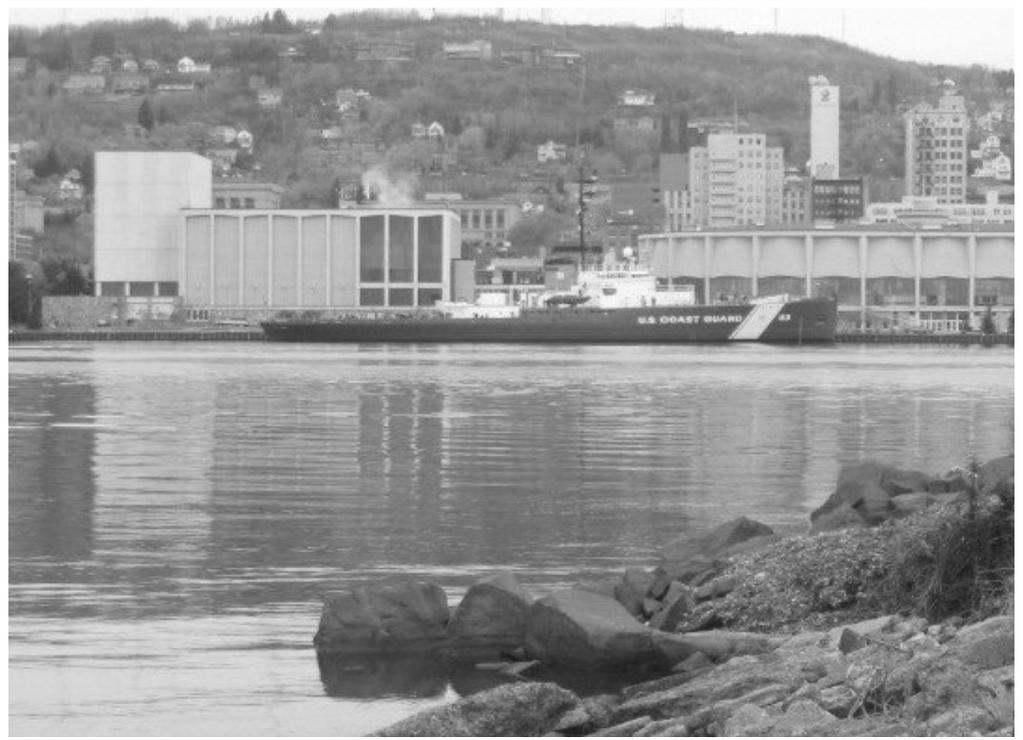
Calendar

**Long Range Planning
Committee
November 15, 7PM
Lafayette Square
Topic: Street Ends**

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting
Lafayette Square
November 17, 7PM**

**Buoys and Gulls Club
Christmas Luncheon
December 6, 1 PM
At The Pickwick
Call Jackie Mantay
For reservations
Bingo every Thursday
Bring your lunch
Coffee is served**

The Mackinaw's last visit



The USCGC Mackinaw, shown here in a photo taken from near 10th Street on the Point, made it's farewell visit to Duluth on October 20th, opening for tours on the 21st. Though it's home port is in Cheyboygan, Michigan, the Mackinaw was a frequent visitor to the Twin Ports, often breaking through ice that was too thick for our smaller Duluth-based cutters. When commissioned in 1944, the 290 ft. Mackinaw was the most powerful icebreaker in the world, and remains the U. S. Coast Guards largest domestic icebreaker. Now scheduled for retirement, the Mackinaw will be replaced by a new cutter, which will carry the same name.

The "New Mack" was launched April 2nd in Marinette, Wisconsin, and will be commissioned later this year. At 240 ft., it is smaller than the "old" Mackinaw, but the state of the art ice breaker/buoy tender is expected to easily carry out its mission on the Great Lakes.

The mission of the Breeze is to serve the community by:

- 1) Publishing the minutes and financial statements of the Park Point Community Club
- 2) Informing the community of upcoming meetings, events, happenings and projects
- 3) Providing a forum for Park Point residents to air their concerns
- 4) Sharing the history, stories and anecdotes that make Park Point a unique place to live

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is December 2 for the December 2005 issue. Please send submissions to Alan Dartanyan at breezeditor@msn.com by e-mail or deliver to 1540 Minnesota Ave.

Park Point Community Club Officers:

President: Dick Gould
3003 Minnesota Ave
727-4067

Vice President: Dave Poulin
3101 S. Lake Ave.
722-1511

Secretaries: Rory Strange and
Deb Turner

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR
open

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON
Cliff Tchida, 722-4966

ENVIRONMENTAL
Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY
Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE
RENTALS
Barb Greene 727-2814

S-CURVE SIGN
Dave Johnson, 722-9764

SUNSHINE
Carl Isadore, 727-5281
www.
parkpointcommunityclub.org

Bridge to the Gulf 5k Run/Walk

December 3, 2005

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Figtgers Lounge

Event start time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Lakewalk

In the December 2005 issue of Runner's World, Editor-in-chief David Willey discussed ongoing efforts to contribute to hurricane relief. He quoted Mississippi author and resident, John Grisham who recently wrote in the New York Times, "those who've lost everything have nothing to give but their courage and sweat." Editor Willey then called upon runners to run in a hurricane relief road race. He described the **Bridge to the Gulf 5K Walk/Run Event** Gulf Coast Relief 5-K, held in Alexandria, Virginia. This event raised \$114,000 for relief efforts. WOW!

As you read this, you may be asking yourself what you can do to help. It's simple - get out there and move. St. Andrews by-the-Lake Episcopal Church is hosting the first annual Bridge to the Gulf 5K Walk/Run Event. You'll notice that the word 'race' isn't used in that title. Join the challenge by entering the event and walk or run 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) along the Lakewalk. Park Point is a terrific neighborhood in which to train for this event. As a regular runner here on the Point, I have been encouraged by the incredible amount of support you all show by waving, giving the thumbs up, or yelling out greetings. Do the same for each other as you train for this event. I'll greet and wave to you too. We can share the characteristic warmth of this community by giving to another community, the recipients of the gulf coast relief efforts.

To get involved in this exciting event, you can register by downloading an application off of the St. Andrews by-the-Lake website (www.standrewsbtl.org) or pick up an application at Bayside Market, Austin Jarrow, Athletes Foot, Headlines hair salon, or Superior Sports. Mail your registration form to St. Andrews by-the-Lake Episcopal Church. If you pre-register by November 18, 2005, the registration fee is \$20.00.

Registration after that date or on race day is \$25.00. Included in fee are t-shirts and refreshments. E-mail enquiries to bridgetothegulf@yahoo.com

Long sleeved event t-shirts guaranteed to all pre-registered participants. Race day registrants will receive their t-shirts after the event if supplies run out. This will be a timed event.

So? Ya coming? See ya then!

Di Marshall

The Park Point Community Club has a new mailing address – and I think I've got it right this time: **Park Point Community Club**
P.O. Box 16326
Duluth, MN 55816-0326

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Upcoming Events:

November 17 -- Men's Group (6:45 a.m. at Jitters)

November 17 - Third Thursday Lunch Group (11:30
a.m.)

November 27 - Advent Lessons and Carols (9:45 a.m.)

November 30 -- St. Andrew's Day Celebration (Evening
begins with worship which includes Bagpiper and
Scottish Highland Dancers - 5:45 p.m., followed by dinner
(just come!) and our popular Talent Show!

December 3 - Women's Group (9:30 a.m. at the church)

December 3 - **Bridge to the Gulf 5k walk/run. Fund
raiser for Hurricane relief.**

December 9 -- Friday Prayer Group (9 a.m.)

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups meet twice month.

Call for dates and times.

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Park Point Community Club Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2005

Tonight's meeting began with the suspension of regular meeting order, to accommodate guests. Duluth Police officers Mike Tinsley (our community liaison) and district commander Gordon Ramsey began with a recap of the Neighborhood Outreach meeting one week earlier. Officer Tinsley also distributed his monthly statistics report, noting that violations drop more than 1/3 when school resumes in fall. Resident complaints mentioned included: tampering with lumber supplies at Lafayette, illegal overnight camping in the park, community "hot spots," public disturbances and the police response to them, vandalism, unleashed dogs and Martian invasion. An "in park after hours" ticket is \$109.

The meeting resumed with Club approval of the September meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Treasurer (Chuck Flaig): The club treasury holds \$41, 025.65 with all bills paid and all expenses currently up-to-date. The Community Club has a new post office box address. That correct address is: Park Point Community Club, P.O. Box 16326, Duluth MN 55816.

President (Dick Gould): A check written by the Community Club to the City of Duluth Legacy Fund has been lost by the City. The check was for a fee collected on sales of the Park Point cookbook. Action on the check would be taken later in the meeting.... Rotary has agreed to build another dune bridge in the Barrens, with additional labor coming from the Audubon Society. The new bridge will include a ramp and an observation platform.... City crews repaired the hockey rink, but the City will not provide nets. Club may purchase instead.... Kids climbing trees by Lafayette are growing more destructive. Bears will be hired to eat them.... A letter from Muggs McGillis requesting a donation from the Club for the CHUM Christmas Party was read; it would be acted upon later.

Environment (Dave Johnson): There are many versions of plans for the S-curve area. Ideas include: framing the parking lot, adding a sand-point well for gardens, and a public art installation / Coast Guard memorial. Overuse is a horrible problem to solve. Following his report Mr. Johnson pulled his protective foil hat back down over his head.

City Liaison (Cliff Tchida): Parking fines, fees and meter rates are going up. City has plans to spend down the reserve fund, raise taxes and collect change from government sofa cushions.

County (Commissioner Dennis Fink): A discussion on taxes continued. An average household can expect to bleed out an additional \$150 - \$170 a year at least.... Application for S-curve grant was received, and looked good. Thanks to Rory Strange for preparation.

Quality of Life (Dennis Hoelscher): There is an important difference between more police and more effective police. Dennis is doing an assessment on the Quality of Life goals, now 2 years old. He presented a letter summarizing his conclusions.

Cookbooks (Diane Gould): Books continue to sell well with new cover. **Motion:** To stop payment on \$560 check issued to City of Duluth Legacy Fund; check was lost by City. Motion carried.

Art Fair (Carla Tamburro): A preliminary budget has been prepared for the 2006 event; it is very similar to 2005. More committee members are needed. Evolving plans include adding 10 more artists for a total of 120, with 6 food vendors. Biggest expenses include director's fee, printing costs. Map will be expanded, improved and might include advertising. A shuttle (trolley?) from Canal Park hotels will be researched; perhaps it would be sponsored by an advertiser. **Motion:** To accept the preliminary Art Fair budget and begin paying the director her fee, spread over 12 months. Motion carried. An Art Fair committee meeting will be held on November 10 at Lafayette.

New Business: Dick Gould returned to the topic of the Rotary dune bridge planned for the Barrens, explaining his wish to see a financial contribution from the Club. **Motion:** The Community Club shall make a contribution not to exceed \$2000 for the new boardwalk project planned for the Barrens. Motion carried. A second vote will be necessary.... The Community Club then returned to the request from Muggs McGillis for a donation to the CHUM Christmas party. **Motion:** The Club shall contribute \$200 to CHUM via Muggs McGillis. (Her request was for \$100). Motion proudly carried. A required second vote will

(Continued on next page)

(Minutes continued)

follow in November.... The Minnesota DNR is balking about the boat launch planned in conjunction with the 14th street boat club construction; the DNR has plans for a different site west of the DECC.... Foil hats keep Martians from reading minds; Club will research cost of covering Park Point with foil.
Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Remarkably Substandard,
Dave Johnson, Temporary Seckertery

Cookbooks

BRIDGED, the Park Point Community Cookbook, will make a great Christmas present for friends and family, especially those who no longer live in Duluth.

We are receiving our 4th order soon. Either get your cookbook at Bay Side Market or the other merchants in town who have continued to keep the books in stock. Those are Country by the Lake, Northern Lights Books and Gifts, The Blue Heron Trading Co, Vista Fleet Gift Shop, Barnes and Noble Bookstores, and The Snow Goose.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Treading Lightly

There often seems to be a disconnect in property planning between what is right, and what actually happens. Much of the recent development and "improvements" on Park Point fall into the latter category, which by default means they are wrong. True improvements are not jarring; they fit in. They don't require variances or special permissions, and Park Point has many beautiful and imaginative examples of work done within the rules. Other projects - those that require variances, amendments, neighbor petitions and the like - are more troubling, more expensive and always more controversial. For what purpose? Personal vanity more often than need drives the demand for building variances, and by definition, variances affect the rules other community members have chosen to abide by. One example: There are recent driveway projects that pave an inordinate amount of lawn. How did this happen? Who said, "Ok, go ahead. Get rid of all that green space." Lack of enough pervious surface is detrimental for more than just a lack of drainage. When so much green space is removed on a property (more than 30%) there is then a lack of overall relief; a view is lost, habitat is lost, and excessive runoff has a pronounced negative effect on the watershed, which of course, is the largest freshwater lake in the world. Nibbling away at our protective rules harms the environment, and has a corrosive effect on the community as well. The Park Point Community Club has a policy of opposing permit variances, and it has proven to be a sensible policy. Can you make less of an impact? Please try. Kinnan Stauber

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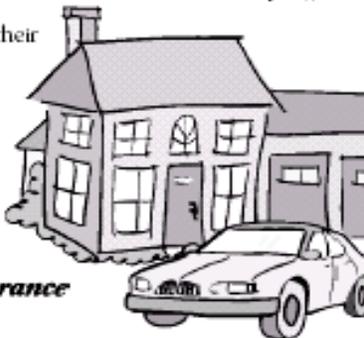


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Viki Day, Dyann Myers, Dick Morse, Mary Jo Schmith,
Dave Yungner, Bill Gossman and Deb LeAir
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To: Dick Gould, President, Park Point Community Club

Subject: September 15th PPCC monthly meeting, statements by Officer Michael Tinsley that officers are not citing violators for after hours park presence due to inadequate signage.

Mr. President,

At the September 15th monthly Community Club meeting, the Police Department's liaison with the community (Officer Michael Tinsley) gave his written report of police activity for July and August, as he was absent from the August meeting. That report showed no violations by after hours parks users (his category "Park Closed Enforcement".) July and August are normally the busiest months for disturbing and illegal activity by users of the parks.

A question was posed to him; in general why more citations are not being issued for illegal behaviors of after hours (10pm) park users. Residents stated the illegal after hours park use violations carries a hefty fine/cost, per violator of \$97.00, which is a significant deterrent.

His response was (and he went to his car to get the exact ordinance); persons can be in the parks until 12 midnight, unless otherwise posted by the Director of Parks. He stated inadequate posting does not allow officers to always cite.

In August of 2003, a tragic drowning occurred on Park Point near 12th St. In response to that incident, in order to avert litigation by the victim's family, the Mayor (Doty) established a Task Force. This group included the City Attorney, Parks Department Director, Public Works Director, the Chief of Police (Roger Waller), and others. Their task was to insure adequate information, about parks/beaches use (including closure times) be provided to the public by new signage.

Concurrently the Quality of Life Committee was working on the same issues. At the August 2003 PPCC meeting residents documented disturbing illegal behavior by after hours park users, and lack of adequate information and signage, as significant community concerns.

The city intended to place signs before January of 2004, however the Committee asked for a spring 2004 date, as we believed more time was needed for our input to the Task Force plan. Subsequently we met several times with city officials and provided our input relative to content and specific locations of signs.

A final plan was adopted by city officials including Police Chief Roger Waller. In the spring of 2004 some existing signs were removed, some moved, and new signs installed. In April a media day was held by public officials. Mayor Bergson and several city officials met with the media (including three local television stations and two newspapers) at the 12th St. parking lot.

The Mayor announced the cities efforts, through new signage, promoting the safe and respectful use of parks and beaches. He was very clear in a statement relative to the importance of park users respecting neighbors. He additionally stated increased enforcement of park regulations is part of the cities plan.

Officer Tinsley's statements at the September meeting relative to inadequate signage surprised me. Subsequently I contacted the Parks Department representative from the Mayors Task Force and inquired as to their knowledge that an issue of inadequate signage in parks exists. The response was there was no knowledge of such a condition.

Officer Tinsley offered no specifics as to incidents or locations supporting the conditions of inadequate signage. Data must exist, showing the dates of officers' contacts and specifics as to location and incident. This information would support his statements why citations are not being issued. The expectation is he will present this data to officials.

Our intent, as a committee, if officials determine additional signage is needed, is to work with them and ensure a continuity with the work completed last year.

Copies of this letter has been provided to the Secretary, to be read into the minutes of the October meeting, and to the Editor so it can be published in the November BREEZE newsletter.

Respectfully, Dennis Hoelscher, Chairperson, Quality of Life Committee

Editor's Corner

A bit disappointing....that's the only way I can describe the response to the 12th Street Beach renovation project. Despite the story being picked up and spread city-wide by the Duluth News-tribune, few people showed up at the September meeting to discuss it, though County Commissioner Dennis Fink was there to explain the grants involved. And it's not as if the project has died. Dave Johnson of the environmental committee has taken the initiative to pursue grants and gather ideas, and some improvements to the area are likely to occur. But as far as being the big community building, everybody get together and get this done kind of project, well, it just didn't happen.

I suppose in any diverse neighborhood it's difficult a project or a cause that everyone – or at least a majority – can rally around. And it's especially difficult in a linear neighborhood like this one. What does 12th street matter to someone who lives on 28th, or 40th? Or to those on the strip of no man's land between the bridge and the s-curve, who never even get to see Dave's jokes on the sign? But in lieu of any great project, perhaps we can show our community spirit in the manner suggested by Martha Hales in her letter on this page. Maybe all we really need to hook us all together....is a long extension cord!

Holiday lighting is a good thing.....

It brightens the spirit

It lights up the darkness

It makes people smile

It's good exercise climbing trees

It's a great way to get to know your neighbors

It's that time of year again.....everyone has been busy getting gardens tucked away for the season and at my house, winter gardening has begun. It gets dark pretty early these days and lighting up the night can be just as much fun as sharing the blooms of summer. With the holidays coming up, wouldn't it be great to light up Park Point from the Bridge to the Beach House? If everyone could put one string of lights on a lamp post or in a window, we could truly be a welcoming community for all to enjoy. This will be the seventh year of lighting for me and each season brings more light viewers to Park Point. I'd like to encourage others to join in the enjoyment of "winter gardening". We already have some really neat displays as you drive down the Pointtalk to your neighbors and let's try to be the brightest neighborhood in Duluth.

You can give me a call if you would like some help....I have extra lights at my house if anyone is interested and would be willing to help if time permits. My lights hopefully will be on by Thanksgiving.

Marcia Hales
3739 Lake Avenue South
727-4527

Officer on Duty

Hello. There was a total of 27 police and fire calls on Park Point in the month of October. As the holiday season approaches, there are some criminals that take advantage of this time of year. Please take the time to think about crime prevention and how you can protect you and your family. Please remember to lock up your house and vehicle and to secure any valuables. If you plan to leave town, I encourage you to talk with your neighbors so they can watch your residence while you are gone. If you have a question about any suspicious solicitors asking for donations, please feel free to call me and I will verify their charity or business. If they are a legit organization, they will not mind law enforcement checking on them.

I always enjoy talking about crime prevention. If you have questions or would like me to meet with your and your neighbors, please call me at 390-2863. Thank you
Officer Mike Tinsley

The Breeze

Park Point Community Club
3026 Minnesota Ave
Duluth, MN 55802



Park Point Resident

Parks Maintenance Numbers

If you see a problem such as overflowing trash cans or porta-potties, or any issue concerning our park facilities, you can contact the Parks Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department at 723-3425, Monday thru Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM. Weekends and after hours call 723-3333



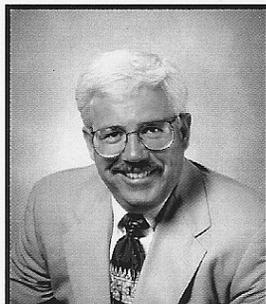
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