

The Breeze

Of
Park Point
June 2006
Vol.35 issue 6

Calendar

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting
June 15, 7PM
Lafayette Square**

**Buoys and Gulls Club
Meeting
July 5, 1 PM
At Lafayette**

**Bingo every Thursday
11:00 AM
Bring your lunch
Coffee is served**

**Rummage Sale
June 9 & 10**

**Rowing Club Open House
June 20, 6-8 PM**

**Art Fair
June 24&25**

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

Treat your senses, right in your own back yard, at the 36th annual Park Point Art Fair on Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25, from 10 am to 5 pm each day at the Park Point Recreation Area. Come “down the street” to peruse fine arts and crafts, enjoy food and free live music, make-and-take children’s art and more. Admission and parking is free.

You can shop the work of more than 110 local, regional and national artists working in such mediums as clay, glass, 2-D painting, jewelry, wood and fiber. These artists applied and were selected to participate in the two-day show by a jury of art professionals who graded applicants on their craftsmanship and originality.

A food court will offer a variety of delicious menus to satisfy any taste buds: from Greek, Mexican and Italian fare to traditional American, Cajun and sweet treats.

Live music, a new element of the art fair, will grace a temporary stage with eight local acts over two days. Saturday’s line-up includes: Bill Flannagan at 11am, Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank at noon, Sterling Waters at 1pm, and Jerree Small at 2 pm. On Sunday, come hear Sara Softich and Jason Wussow at 11am, Don Yoder at noon, the Downbeats at 1pm, and the weekend’s finale, Wet Dog, at 2pm.

The children’s make-and-take area is another new addition to the fair. Using a variety of donated art materials, youth will be able to paint, draw and create something of their own to take home.

There’s something for everyone. So bring your family, friends, or just show up yourself to enjoy a weekend of artwork and activities coordinated by the Park Point Community Club, which uses proceeds from the art fair to support local environmental projects—including tree plantings and dune preservation—as well as youth activities at LaFayette, and other community-rooted efforts.

Volunteers are needed during the fair to help set-up, clean-up, greet visitors, help artists and oversee the make-and-take table. You can sign up for as little as two hours of your time—and still take in the show. As always, the attendance and volunteerism of Park Pointers and friends is crucial to the art fair’s success.

For more information, visit www.parkpointcommunityclub.org

To sign up as a volunteer, contact Diane at 727-4067 or Carla at 727-2661.



The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is June 30th for the July 2006 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: Open

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

Secretary: Dave Johnson
722-98764

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR

Carla Tamburro
727-2661

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Cliff Tchida, 722-4966

ENVIRONMENTAL

Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY

Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE

RENTALS

Barb Greene 940-2613
Barbinha69@aol.com

S-CURVE SIGN

Dave Johnson, 722-9764

SUNSHINE

Pam Griggs
727-2158

Park Point Community Club

P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326

www.

parkpointcommunityclub.org

A New Direction for the Community Club?

An "Election" of officers was held at the Park Point Community Club meeting on May 18th. I put "election" in quotation marks because none of these positions were contested. And although Dave Poulin agreed to stay on as vice president, Chuck Flaig as Treasurer, and Dave Johnson "officially" became Secretary (he's been doing it unofficially for months) we could find no one willing to take on the position of President. Former President Dick Gould did not seek re-election, citing a bit of burn-out and a desire to focus his energy elsewhere. Dick has put a great deal of time and energy into the position, and he acknowledges that that may be one of the deterrents to finding a replacement. Most people lack the energy required to do what Dick has done. This was discussed at the meeting, and it was suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea to restructure the club, and make the job of President less grueling.

The Park Point Community Club has been referred to by some as the "Piss and Moan Club". People come to the meetings to complain about property taxes, zoning variances, traffic, potholes, beach parties, development, whatever. And the result of these complaints is usually something like "Resolved, the President will write a letter to, or the president will call....whatever government office is considered responsible for whatever we're complaining about" And as these pile up, the president becomes the go-between, the one fly constantly buzzing in the ear of government officials, and becoming more and more ignored. And much of this bickering is over things over which the community club has little or no control. Perhaps it is time the club concentrates on the things it can do, and stays out of the things it can't.

And the Park Point Community Club does do some things very well. The Art Fair is the first one that comes to mind. For 36 years now the club has been putting on a quality event. And the rummage sale, which grew out of the Art Fair, and has now become a tradition in itself. I hope people saw the wonderful front page story in the Duluth News-Tribune on the work of the community club's environmental committee in planting and restoring the dunes. This has been going on for 10 years, and is gaining recognition for it's great success. And let's not forget the Breeze, another 30+ years tradition of bringing news and information to the community. These are all great projects that reflect well not only on the Community Club but on the Park Point Community as a whole. And although they require much volunteer labor, they are things that people can enjoy working on. If these were the things we were concentrating on at our meetings, perhaps people would be more willing to come – and maybe even take the lead.

It was also suggested that perhaps we don't need a full meeting every month, but perhaps could only have a board or steering committee meeting monthly, for all those involved in the project of the moment, and then hold larger quarterly meetings, that are more of a social gathering, offering a bit more than just the coffee and cookies we have now, with a social half-hour or so just for people to get to know each other.

In a club like that the job of President would not be so onerous, and there would be a much better chance of finding someone to take the job. And the Community Club itself may finally be able to get out of it's rut and grow. What do you think?

Alan Dartanyan, Breeze editor

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- June 11 -- Trinity Sunday: Senior High Graduate celebration
- June 15 -- Third Thursday Lunch Group -- 11:30 a.m.
- June 17 -- Volunteer at the Marathon for Gabriel Project
- June 20 -- Men's Group (6:45 a.m. at Jitters)
- June 19-20 -- Vacation Bible Camp
- June 21 -- Solstice Celebration (call the church for time)
- June 24-25 -- Popcorn Stand at the Art Fair (need volunteers)
- July 18 -- Men's Group (6:45 a.m. at Jitters)
- July 10-11 -- Confirmation Trip to Madeline Island
- August 23-25 -- Confirmation trip to Mpls. (Urban Adventure)
- August 8 and 22 -- Men's Group (6:45 a.m. at Jitters)

"Nature is a Sunday school of spiritual lessons: grass teaches us that however frail the pieces of our life may seem, they persist in us; water that the basics of life sustains us, not its' frills; mountains that every effort in life leads to another valley. The problem is that, too often, we fail to wonder what the life around us has to say to our own life." (Sr. Joan Chittister, Becoming Fully Human)

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Park Point Community Club May 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Old Lafayette Square smelled pleasantly of fresh paint as Club members filtered through the doors of the hall for their May meeting. The group gasped excitedly at the remarkable change the painting project had made, while the painting crew stood bashfully digging their toes into the ground. President Dick Gould tactfully hushed the "ooh's" and "ahh's," and brought the meeting to order at 7:07. Minutes of the last meeting were approved, with one clarification about the price of a fine for rolling through a stop sign.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Flaig gave an upbeat report about the Club's financial standing. Since January, 2005 the Club has gained \$18,194. This income came from the Art Fair, rentals at Lafayette and the astounding success of the cookbook. There will still be upcoming expenses for the Art Fair, but this night, the Club treasury holds \$58,428. Dick Gould noted again that the Club needs to develop a better financial strategy, and move money into some practical investments.

Committee Reports:

Environmental: Dave Johnson spoke about this year's tree-planting sessions; an appropriate topic for such a sap. Once again, students from Stowe Elementary took a field trip to the Barrens to help plant. Other volunteer plantings take place every Saturday in May, from 9 to noon. The work has made quite a difference over time.

City Council Liaison: Cliff Tchida has served in this post for a decade. In his final report, he expressed his irritation with politicians that only find their way to Park Point at election time. He stressed once again the impact small decisions on hillside issues can have on Park Point development. Thank you for your service, Cliff!

Police: Officer Mike Tinsley distributed his monthly statistics report, and spent a few minutes reviewing it with the Club. Traffic stops have jumped up; a trend that will continue with the warmer weather. The police are working to be proactive with crime deterrence instead of just responding to 911 calls. He noted their ratio is 59% police-initiated actions, 41% are 911 responses. Mike also clarified the price of two fines that had been discussed by the Club. Rolling a stop sign is \$122; being in a city park after hours is \$109; alcohol adds to that fine. There will be another Community & Police meeting on June 1, 6 pm at Lafayette.

Parks & Rec: Liz Mackay opened a short discussion about the Summer Youth Program; the Club would return to the topic later.

Art Fair: Jake Kapsner had good news about the upcoming Art Fair. There will be 114 artists this year; a small increase over previous years. All the artist and vendor checks were in and deposited; the advertising had been finalized for badges, posters, stickers and bookmarks. He requested volunteer help from the community for distributing these materials. The map of the Art Fair will also carry advertising, maybe a tie-in with Breeze advertisers. There will be another committee meeting in early June.

Breeze: Alan Dartanyan reported that ad sales for space in the Breeze are doing well. Each issue of the Breeze costs about \$360 to produce; ad revenues bring in \$260 of that. Business-card ads have proven to be popular and effective for the advertisers.

Rummage Sale: Charlene Shimmin gave credit to Bob and Carol Lent for the artwork they put together on the Rummage Sale posters. This year's sale is June 9 & 10.

St. Louis County: Commissioner Dennis Fink spoke about the \$10,000 grant the Community Club has been awarded for the 12th Street (S-curve) project. The money is available through the middle of next year. The County can't give the money directly to the Club; the City of Duluth will be a pass-through agent, reimbursing project expenses. He spoke frankly about the frustrations and realities of politics, particularly in relations between the County and City. He urged Club members to be patient, and to keep their focus on the priorities of the project.

President's Report: Dick Gould continued the discussion about 12th Street, emphatically describing the breakdown on the City's part to generate a complete and thorough plan for the area. Any work on our part to create such a plan has been and will be futile, since the City would shoot it down, noodle it up or shove

(continued on next page)

it way past deadline. He cited the work put into planning the pavilion boardwalk, cancelled at the last minute by the City despite the popularity and practicality of the idea. The boardwalk would have been built by the Rotary, the Audubon Society and the Club, without using any City money at all. He then spoke about having contractors and volunteers lined up for both the pavilion boardwalk and 12th Street, coordinated on deadlines that had been agreed to by the City. That help is no longer available, and it'll be too late in the season for replanting by the time the City drags any watered-down, ineffective plan over their own imaginary and contradictory hurdles. Eventually this led to his call for a motion from the floor.

Motion: That the Club shall withdraw funding approved for the pavilion boardwalk site, and shall suspend funding for the 12th Street project pending City completion and approval of their own plan for the site.

Motion carried.... Dick also said the Hearing Island foxes are doing well.... He again expressed his thanks and congratulations to the painting team for the superb job inside Lafayette.

New Business: Last month \$400 was approved for the Lafayette upgrade. Dick Gould said some additional expenses (new blinds, carpet for the stage) are still on tap. **Motion:** That the Club spend an additional \$600 for the continuing improvements and decorations inside Lafayette. **Motion carried.....** The copy machine in the Lafayette office has given up the ghost. By copy-machine standards, it's very old, and would cost more to repair than replace with a better, newer machine. **Motion:** Dick Gould has Club authority to replace the copier. **Motion carried....** One part of the 12th Street plan continues forward; ideas for a new sign are under way. **Motion:** The Club shall follow up on a new S-curve Sign design, whatever the City does. **Motion carried.**

Club Elections: At this point in the meeting, the Club turned its attention to the election of Club officers. Staying in their roles: Dave Poulin, Vice-President; Chuck Flaig, Treasurer; Dave Johnson, Miserable Secretary. All were voted back in by acclaim. Dick Gould does NOT want to be President anymore. No one stepped forward to take the job; we'll try again in June. Dick wants to make sure there are no questions whatsoever about his term in office. To that end, he called for a motion from the floor. **Motion:** That the Club shall hire an independent auditor for a review of Club expenses, and establish an investment committee. **Motion passed.** For the remainder of the meeting, the Club discussed the Summer Youth Program, and our usual policy of supplementing the director's pay. No action was taken tonight.

Woozy from paint fumes, the giggling group voted to adjourn at 8:50, then they all demolished a big pile of donuts.

Respectfully Bespectacled, Dave Johnson, Secretary

A Special Thank you to The Lafayette painting & clean-up team:

Ellen Dunlap, Bruce Rutherford, John Hunn, Alan Dartanyan, Dick Gould, Charlene Shimmin, Missy Steichen, Jackson Steichen, Rod Olson, Nate Stauber, Kinnan Stauber, Pat Olson, Diane Gould, Gail Johnson, Dennis Hoelscher and Dave Johnson. Team dogs were Sadie and Tess.

Sidewalk Hazards

To keep the sidewalk safe for our children who use it before they are allowed onto the bike lane and for those who just like to walk or bike on it, you are encouraged to keep your part of the sidewalk free of obstacles.

It is proper for the homeowner to make sure fixtures, trees, shrubs, grass trailer hitches, and anything else does not partially block the sidewalk. This means keeping it clear from edge to edge and up to a height of about seven feet. It would be even nicer to make the clear space a little wider than the sidewalk as we have narrow sidewalks.

If you have a sidewalk, please look at your shrubs that are making the sidewalk even narrower than it already is, tree limbs overhead hitting you in the face, especially when it is dark and you can't see them, car bumpers over the sidewalk and grass growing well over the edge making the sidewalk very narrow. Please help to keep Park Point safe.

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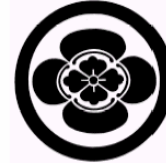
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Duluth Rowing Club

This year, the Duluth Rowing Club will be hosting an Open House event for Park Pointers. It will be held on Tuesday June 20th from 6:00-8:00pm and will feature a BBQ, a close look at our equipment and an informational meeting about the events we will be hosting this summer. For more information, please call Dave at 724-2775 or visit our website at www.duluthrowing.org

Learn to Row Classes

The Duluth Rowing Club is offering a beginners course for adults on the fundamentals of rowing as an introduction to the sport of rowing. Rowing is great full body workout and a non-impact activity. It is also an excellent way to cross-train for other sports such as running or skiing. Rowing attire consists of workout clothing and sport/tennis shoes.

Two sessions will be offered and held at the Duluth Rowing Club, Park Point, 3900 Minnesota Avenue. Each two-week session is \$75.00 and class size is limited.

#1. June 19 - 29th (Monday-Thursday) 6-8 p.m.

#2. July 10 - 21st (Monday-Thursday) 6-8p.m.

For more information on the Learn to Row Classes, please call Bonnie at 724-2775

Mark Your Calendars...2006 Duluth Rowing Club Events

July 8 Duluth International Regatta

August 18-19 Northwestern International Rowing Association's Annual Regatta (NWIRA)

September 24 Death Row (an 18 mile race up the St. Louis River)

(Second monthly installment of)
Miss Lynch---A Wisconsin Point teacher 1914

I had no trouble getting to school and no trouble in school. The big boys had figured out that I could "lick" them so they never tried to prove it. I made a lesson plan every day after the children left. One day as I sat at my desk a tall handsome young man came to the door. He came in and said, "You don't remember me. I was in the third grade with you at the Catholic School." "Of course," I said, "The sister was going to hit you with a ruler and you got up, walked out and never came back." "That's right," he said, "Indian kids don't get hit. I was sent to our Indian School and finished there. Now I am home and heard you were the new teacher." "My mother sent me to you. She wants you to come to our house for tea." I was real pleased because I wanted to know the grown people as well as the children on the Point.

John LaVerge and I walked down the road that ran past the school, then past the Indian Cemetery, and then to the LaVerge home which was a large house made of logs. Mrs. LaVerge came to the door to meet us and welcomed me in Chippewa. Mary LaVerge was also there to meet me. John explained that although his mother did not speak English, she could understand.

The tea table was set so we went in and sat down. The table was beautifully set with a lovely linen embroidered cloth, fine china plates and cups and saucers. Mrs. LaVerge poured the tea from a silver teapot and passed pieces of a delicious cake. I was so happy to be there. We all talked together in two languages. John told me that their family had lived there for four generations. After a very pleasant hour I said that I had better go home. I enjoyed the party and was pleased to have met these nice people. John came with me and rowed my boat across the bay. He came with me all the way home. My mother asked him to stay for supper. He met all of the brothers but not my father. Since my father was a fireman he did not get home for meals. Shortly after our supper John left.

The next day I went to the coal dock as usual though I knew John LaVerge would have taken my boat to get home. I walked down to the end of the dock and waved my hand at a man I could see in front of the LaVerge house. It was John's older brother. I heard him say in a good loud voice, "What is the matter with you young bucks, the teacher needs a boat." John got my boat and came over for me.

(To be continued next Month)

Tunnel Permits

The tunnel Commissioner (Kingdom of Park Point) has announced that a new supply of Park Point Tunnel Permits has been delivered to the Officially Authorized Permit Distributor, Bayside Market, where they may be purchased for a fee of \$5. *Please Note:* For the remainder of 2006, residents on the bay side should purchase blue permits, whereas lake side residents should continue to buy yellow stickers. (We suspect the Commish may have run out of yellow paper...) Those on the bay side who already have yellow stickers posted will be "grandfathered" in, of course

Additionally, the Tunnel Commissioner has asked for suggestions as to organizations or projects that might be suitable to receive future proceeds from Tunnel Permit sales. (Up to now, all profits have been forwarded to the American Red Cross, earmarked for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.) Write or e-mail your ideas to the Commissioner care of the Breeze editor.

A tunnel Clean-up Day will most likely be scheduled for some time in October in order to remove accumulated litter which – as we all know – could create a safety hazard during the cold winter months. Watch *The Breeze* for any future announcements, as well as updates regarding 2007 permits.

Please remember that information regarding Tunnel access points should not be disclosed to Off-Pointers.

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Cory Cartier, Cartier Agency

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Editor's Corner (Page?)

June is upon us, with the usual flurry of activities that kick off the Summer season. If all goes well this issue should hit your doorsteps – or mailboxes - just about the time of the Park Point Rummage sale, June 9th & 10th. To newcomers who aren't familiar with this Park Point tradition, it's real simple: just set up a table, put anything you want to get rid of on it, and wait for the crowds. There are no permits required, (unless you're selling food), the community club takes care of advertising, and provides "port-a-potties" for customers. And the crowds will come. If you don't have much to sell, it's perfectly acceptable to combine with off-Point friends and neighbors for a joint sale. Our hope is to have a continuous sale going all the way down the Point, to keep the crowds coming.

One thing we ask, though, is please do not hold rummage sales on the weekend of the Art Fair, June 24th & 25th. There are a couple reasons for this. For one, this is the artist's weekend. They pay for the right to display at the Park Point Art Fair, and it's the Art Fair that underwrites virtually everything that the Park Point Community Club does, from Summer Youth Programs to tree planting to printing the Breeze. Please don't distract people from coming to the Art Fair.

The second reason is traffic. It will be busy down here – as it is most weekends – and we want to keep traffic flowing smoothly down to the recreation area. Cars stopping and starting at rummage sales will back things up.

What we do want you to do is come to the Art Fair. Volunteer if you have time – they need people to be greeters, to relieve Artists for breaks, to keep the trash cans emptied, etc. But even if you can't volunteer, come! New coordinator Carla Tamburro and husband Jake have brought some fresh ideas to the Fair. For the first time there will be live music, and a make and take area for kids. And the quality of the artwork is always outstanding. It should be a great event.

Sandwiched between the Rummage Sale and Art Fair is another event I'm looking forward to: On June 20th, from 6 – 8PM there will be an open house at the Duluth Rowing Club, 3900 Minnesota Ave., for all Park Point residents. This will include a BBQ, a close-up look at their equipment, and an informational meeting on upcoming rowing club events. To my knowledge this is the first time they've held an event like this, specifically for the Park Point Community, and I encourage residents to stop by and learn about the Duluth Rowing Club.

Whew, yes, there's a lot going on in June. But the start of Summer on Park Point is kind of like that first dip in Lake Superior. You just have to take a deep breath and dive in!

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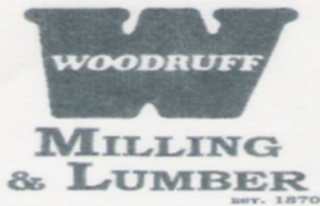
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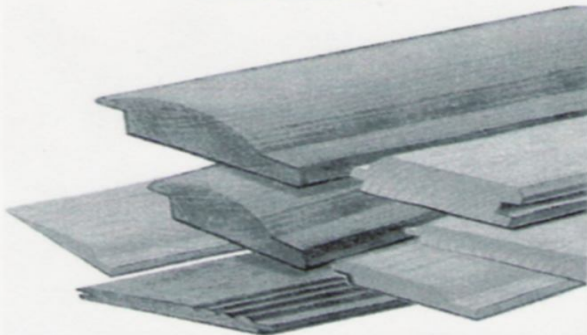
Park Point Resident

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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