

# The Breeze

Of  
Park Point

December 2006

Vol.35 issue 12

## Calendar

**Park Point Community Club**  
**NO DECEMBER MEETING!**

**Hanukka**  
December 16

**Winter Solstice**  
December 20

**Christmas**  
December 25

**Kwanzaa**  
December 26

**Choose your Holiday!**  
(or celebrate them all!)

## Remaking 12th Street Beach



Park Point volunteers (including the Park Point Community Club's Acting President Dave Poulan, on the left) have been hard at work transforming the much used and abused 12<sup>th</sup> Street Beach area. A spate of mild weather made for good progress. Fences have been erected, beach grass and small trees have been planted, and a wooden walkway and deck have been built. Straw mats have been placed over much of the fenced in area, and covered with a mulch of brush leaves and grass clippings. This is to hold the sand in place and give the plantings a chance to take hold. But more is needed, so a request has gone out to all Park Pointers:

### **Bring us your Christmas Trees!**

(the real ones, that is. You can keep the artificial ones). When the season is over, just bring your old tree down to 12<sup>th</sup> Street and toss it over the fence. The more the merrier.

Plans are also underway to replace battered sign at the s-curve with a new, more versatile one. Estimates for buying a new sign came in much higher than expected, so we are looking at designing and building one on our own, using that all important volunteer labor. Expect more on this in future issues of *The Breeze*.

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 January 5<sup>th</sup> for the January 2007 issue. Please send submissions to Alan Dartanyan at [breezeditor@msn.com](mailto: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

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

## Spaghetti Anyone?...

by John Hunn

On Saturday, November 18, it was spaghetti for everyone. Over \$3,000 was raised at the Spaghetti Benefit for the Trela family. It was also a very pleasant social gathering for members of our community. Many thanks to all those who ate, helped, or donated items for the dinner. A special thanks goes out to all those businesses whose donations helped defray costs and channel the monetary donations to the Trelas. Those businesses include:

Alotti Biscotti  
Arco Coffee  
Bayside Market (Italian sausage)  
The Bernick Companies  
Cub Foods  
Mr. D's Bar & Grill  
Grandma's Restaurant Company  
Green Mill Restaurant & Bar  
Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
Park Point Community Club  
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church  
St. Andrews By The Lake Episcopal Church

Donations of time, materials, and money are still being accepted. See Joe's ad on Page 7 for details.

**Bridged**, The best selling Park Point Community Cookbook is still available and will make a great extra gift for the holidays. They are available at Bay Side Market, The Blue Heron Trading Company, Northern Lights Books and Gifts, Lake Superior Nautical and Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Any questions contact Diane Gould at 727-4067.

## New Breeze Ad Rates

While ad revenues make up only a portion of the cost of producing the Breeze, they go a long way toward easing the financial burden on the Park Point Community Club, and allow us to produce what I believe is a quality newsletter each month. So when our printing costs increase, as they have this year, so must our advertising rates. The new rates appear below, and I think you'll agree it's still a great deal. These rates are effective with the December 2006 issue.

<b>Full Page</b>	<b>: \$120/ Mo.</b>	<b>\$850/Yr.</b>
<b>1/2 Page</b>	<b>: \$60/Mo.</b>	<b>\$450/Yr.</b>
<b>1/4 Page</b>	<b>: \$30/Mo.</b>	<b>\$250/Yr.</b>
<b>Bus. Card</b>	<b>: \$10/Mo.</b>	<b>\$100/Yr.</b>

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after mass

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St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church 325 E 3rd St.

**WISHING YOU ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS  
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.**

Christmas Mass Schedule was not available at the  
time the Breeze was going to press. Feel free to  
call the Parish Office for Mass times.

**Duluth Proposed Capital  
Improvement Budget**

Duluth's Proposed Capital Improvement Budget – the 5 year plan – was recently presented, and contained a few items of interest to Park Pointers. Bearing in mind that this is just a proposed budget, and that priorities can, and probably will, change, here are a few of the things that we have to look forward to:

- \* \$450000 to renovate or replace Fire Station #5 on Park Point in 2007 & 2008
- \* A total of \$420000 to renovate the Park Point, Merrit and Portman Community centers in 2008
- \* About \$2.1 million to repaint the Aerial Lift Bridge in 2009

The Editor

# *BaySide Market*

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Merry Christmas!**

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## **Park Point Community Club November 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Pumpkin Pie! Everyone's favorite gourd-based pie, served with a bracing cup of apple cider! It was enough to make the citizens of the Park Point Community Club shake off their bitter contempt for each other and choose instead to chatter about people who weren't in attendance that night; always a happy pursuit. Long-running feuds were set aside, weaponry was kept out of sight and Club members spoke pleasantly about the City of Duluth, all because of the warm good will brought on by pumpkin pie. Dave Poulin brought the meeting to order by tapping on his plate with a plastic fork. It was 7:05.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with one correction: Breeze Editor Alan Dartanyan prefers Dom Perignon champagne to the Cristal champagne that was reported. Keep that in mind if you're stumped for a gift.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Flaig reported that the Club treasury (as of tonight) stands at \$43,799.43, with little activity since the Art Fair wrapped up. Most of this money is in a money-market fund drawing 4% interest. A complete financial accounting is still in the works; there was a brief discussion about the lagging audit process and the status of that project. An auditor chosen by Dave Poulin has had our books for awhile; a full report should be ready by the next Club meeting in January.

**President's Report:** Dave Poulin spoke about budget news from the Mayor's office released earlier this week. Three projects among those listed for potential funding in 2008 will affect Park Point. Firehall 5 will be remodeled, Lafayette Square might finally get a long-overdue new roof, and the Aerial Bridge will be painted. Of course, none of this is etched in stone, or even in pumpkin pie filling.

**Breeze:** Alan Dartanyan noted that the deadline for the next Breeze is December 1. More potential advertisers are seeking him out; no word yet from the Pulitzer committee.

**Lafayette Square:** Sue Hammond has donated a good-condition ping-pong table for the lower-level warm-up area. (Thank you, Sue. We'll miss you....) **We need volunteers for the hockey rink!** Making rink ice isn't warm work, but the recipe is simple. The offer is simple, too. If you want to skate, help out (or freeload your sleazy way past another great neighborhood project). The rink also needs a hockey net. The Club discussed boosting one from another rink late at night; the idea was dismissed after the Club's idiot secretary wrote it into the minutes.

**Environmental:** Dick Gould and Dave Johnson, performing in the roles first made famous by Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, gave an extended update on the 12th Street project. Aerial photographs were taken of the site on Oct. 18. The first fencing was rolled out by volunteers on Oct. 21. Now the boardwalk is nearly complete. If weather permits, the large deck at the end will be complete, too. And certainly the inconvenience of working so late in the season can be laid at the dragging feet of a few City officials. On the other hand, any mistakes in construction can now be blamed on the cold weather freezing the bubble in the carpenter's level. **Motion:** The Club should apply for a Menard's charge card. **Motion passed.** Leaves, brush and post-season Christmas trees are still needed at the 12th Street beach.... **Minnesota Point Pine Forest:** The Duluth Airport Authority is planning to screw around with the woods again. They have scheduled a public meeting for 6 p.m. on Dec. 5, at which time they will smile.

**No reports:** Art Fair, Police, Quality of Life. **Old Business:** The spaghetti dinner benefit for the Trela family's fire recovery will be Saturday, Nov. 18 at St. Andrew's Church..... At the October meeting, the Club voted to contribute \$200 to the CHUM Ministry's annual Christmas party; a tradition that owes its existence to Muggs McGillis. **Motion:** The Club supports this contribution. This is the second vote, as required in the bylaws. **Motion passed.**

**New Business:** Dick Gould returned to the subject of Lafayette improvements. The downstairs warming area desperately needs paint. Right now everything is out of the room, and it would be a good time to do the job. **Motion:** The Club endorses the plan to paint the recreation hall before the skating season. Budget is expected to be around \$100. **Motion passed.** Lighting inside Lafayette is lousy, too. Some lights apparently have no switches to turn them on....

(continued on next page)

(minutes continued)

Marcia Hales urged everyone at the meeting to get busy decorating for the holidays. She showed off a tomato-cage Christmas tree of lights, and talked about her spectacular annual lights and sculptures display. This led to a discussion about the citywide lighting contest, and Park Point's involvement as a neighborhood entrant. **Motion:** The Club endorses strong participation in the holiday lighting contest! **Motion passed....** Chuck Flaig reminded us that the website is still there; we need more people updating it. Handled right, it could be something very special for past and present Park Pointers.

**There will NOT be a December meeting of the Park Point Community Club.** There will be a meeting of the Executive Board instead. Any pressing business should be brought to the attention of a Club officer before that time.... Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on the dot; within minutes the only person left in the building was the Club secretary, alone in the kitchen, scooping pumpkin pie into his coat pockets.

Respectively Bespectacled,  
Dave Johnson, Secretary

### **Research at Southworth Marsh**

You may have seen the nets set off the rowing club end of the marsh during the later part of the summer - that is what this tidbit is referring to.  
Kinnan Stauber, Environmental Committee Chair.

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The nets you've noticed in Southworth Marsh since late July are part of John Clark's research project. John is an undergraduate student at UMD in Dr. Randall E. Hicks' lab and he's DNA fingerprinting E. coli bacteria found in fish to determine if their source is from birds, treated wastewater, or naturalized sources. Since fish are cold-blooded they were not thought to harbor E. coli bacteria, but we have found them and John is determining their source.

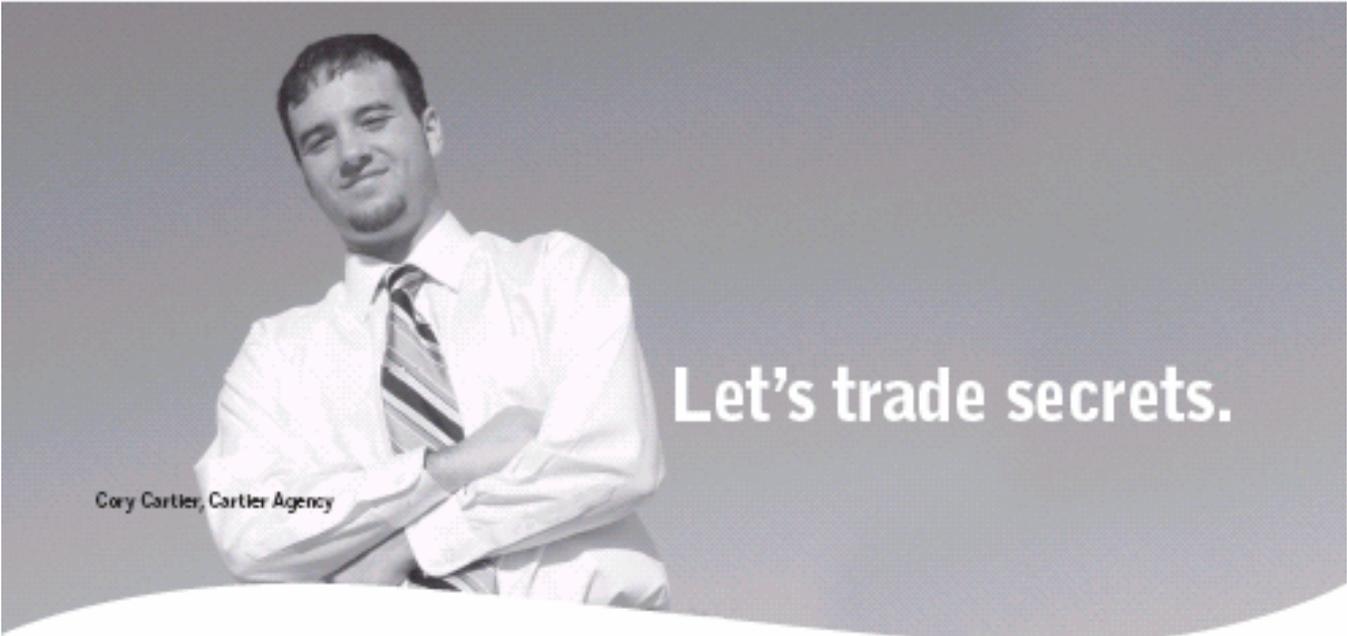
There are other E. coli research projects being conducted around Park Point. Dr. Randy Hicks' lab is in collaboration with Dr. Mike Sadowsky's lab at the St. Paul campus. Mike's PhD student, Satoshi Ishii, has conducted extensive research at the Duluth Boat Club beach and in Proctor to determine what the sources of E. coli are and how they survive in the environment.

As for me, Dr. Hicks' Master's Student, I'm tracking the sources of E. coli in the Spring, Summer, and Fall in the water, sand, and sediment of Southworth Marsh and Rice's point, under the Blatnik Bridge. These sites were chosen because Southworth Marsh is chronically closed in the late spring, summer and early fall by the MPCA due to presence of fecal coliforms. Rice's point is where the WLSSD monitors water quality to determine when they treat wastewater with sodium hypochlorite, the active ingredient in bleach. The WLSSD doesn't know if they're treating waste water because of sewage fecal coliforms or bird fecal coliforms.

I know this is a lot of info, but we like to talk about what we're doing. You know how scientists are.

Dr. Hicks asked me to spare the results, because things are either in peer review or we're still crunching the numbers. Please let me know if I can do anything else.

Thanks for the interest,  
Dennis Hansen



Cory Cartier, Cartier Agency

# Let's trade secrets.

As a new Park Point homeowner, I'm looking forward to getting to know my neighbors. If you want to know about home, auto or any other personal insurance products, please give me a call.

And while the sand is great, if you have any tips on how to keep it outside—I'd love to hear them.

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## Lighting Up The Point

Becoming part of the area's holiday tradition can be very rewarding. This will be my 8th year of opening my property to the public. The first year, my husband had passed away in April. We had won 2nd prize in the city lighting contest the year before and he had challenged me to "do better" in 1999. He died unexpectedly that April but focusing on the light display was my way of working through my loss. Friends of his helped fab a large "light fountain" and I entered the contest. I noticed people driving up and sitting in their cars to view the lights and in a "leap of faith" made a sign at the entry inviting folks to walk through the display and stop in my little garden house for cookies and hot chocolate.

One of the first evenings a father and three little kids walked through. As I watched from inside my house the father opened the garden house door, got the three children seated, served them their hot chocolate and just sat there reading them a story from one of the Christmas books. It was a very touching scene. Since I had no idea what their story might be I realized I was missing something and out of curiosity, I placed a notebook in the little unheated space requesting comments. The father with the little ones showed up the following year with mom and another baby. He had been caring for the other three while mom was in the hospital.

On Christmas Eve, I got everything turned on, placed a huge pot of hot chocolate and 400 cups out and was getting ready to leave for my mother's house. There was a soft snow falling and it was so quiet. All of a sudden a car pulled up and a "Christmas card" family got out. The mother was dressed in a long fur coat, the little girl had a long red coat with a fur muff and the father had on a dress coat and top hat. He positioned the little girl and mom in front of the arches and took a photo. They wandered through the display, stopped in the garden house and signed the book. What they wrote was "Hi! You don't know us, but we're visiting from L.A. with our 5 year old daughter and heard the story. How beautiful!" Last Christmas while talking to a couple from out of town, they mentioned that they had visited "many years ago". For some reason, I asked if they were from L.A. and it turned out they were the "Christmas card" family. That Christmas Eve arriving back from my mother's I was greeted by a huge crowd in my garden house. The hot chocolate was gone and they had run out of cookies and cups. Needless to say, 1999 was the last Christmas Eve I spent away from my house.

Throughout the year people stop me to tell me of their visits to my display. With three colleges in the area, many of the students are "stuck at school" until just before the holidays so this has become a place for them to "grab a little spirit". Last season we had six engagements that I am aware of, three that I actually was lucky enough to have been personally on site when they occurred.

The display has been dubbed "Holiday Spirit in the lights" because of the people and the unbelievable ambiance that seems to happen here. One of the most memorable visitors arrived that first year. I was preparing yet another pot of hot chocolate when my Grandson came to say an older gentleman was asking to speak to me. He led me out to the garden house and walked me up to the man who took my hand. He said "I'm a blind man and I have visited your display three times now. I need to tell you this is the most beautiful light display I have ever seen." Another memorable guest book comment. "I'm homeless and came to get the Spirit of the season, thank you." Since I have the advantage of meeting light viewers I also hear the comments of how appreciative everyone is that our community is so welcoming during the holiday season. Happy lighting.....Marcia Hales

### **DOME REPAIR HELPERS**

Anyone interested in helping with the physical work

over the next few months should contact

**Joe Trela: 727-0653**

**DuluthDome @ aol.com**

***Thank you!***

### **Handy Ma'am Services' Park Point Property Management**

- 24hr curbside info on 1620 AM radio
- yard signs, ads, posted notices, email flyers
- written applications and background checks
- monitor rental agreements and payments
- home repair & yard maintenance as needed

**Contact Karen Arthur at 218-393-2226**

## **St. Andrews By The Lake Episcopal Church**

**2802 Minnesota Avenue  
standrewsbtl.org 727-1262**

A Christmas Reflection

In story and song, one of the most common emotions connected with Christmas is joy, yet sadly that gift of the Spirit is often absent. Christmas is pregnant with promises of happy family gatherings and the joyful excitement of unwrapping gifts. Yet great expectations can lead to great disappointment. Our thoughts, wishes, and attitudes have a powerful influence on creating a joyful Christmas for others, and in the process, for ourselves as well.

The Feast of the Incarnation (Christmas) loudly proclaims that joy isn't reserved for heaven: it's a gift we begin to unwrap here in this life. Consider some possibilities about how you can birth joy into this world. Begin on Christmas Day by making three hopes: about the kind of person you want to be today, about the peaceful and joyful atmosphere you hope to create around you, and about the gifts of life and love you want to share with your loved ones. And then, is there someone outside the circle of your loved ones that you can share: a blanket or new winter clothing donated to CHUM, some toys to Bethany Crisis Nursery, -- there are so many needs out there.

For Christians, the promise and power of what you give is possible because of the great Gift we celebrate today. No Christmas is ever 100 percent free from unpleasant events or disappointments, but your hopes and dreams will give you the wondrous gift of a joyous Christmas. And remember, the spirit of Christmas is not just a day, not just a season - it calls to us 365 days a year.

May you have a blessed Christmas,

The Rev. Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski (Vicar of St. Andrew's)

**Christmas Eve, Lessons, Carols and Eucharist, 4:30 p.m.**

**All are welcome**

### **Yoga at Lafayette**

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Registration contact:

Gay Hooper, 722-2357

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## Editor's Corner

Feeling pretty good as I write this. Ran the Bridge to the Gulf II 5k, got my Holiday Lights up and on, (including a tomato cage tree), and I even cut my own Christmas tree. The dusting of new snow helps me get in the spirit of the season (not to mention the opening of Spirit Mountain).

The onset of Winter will bring a temporary halt to the work at 12th Street Beach, and the December PPCC meeting has been cancelled. Most of us have more than enough to keep us busy with home and family.

There are still a few things to keep in mind, though. Last month's call for volunteers to flood the hockey rink at Lafayette went unanswered. I could be there just isn't that much interest in hockey on the Point right now. And that's fine. But with the colder weather, the city will soon have the pleasure rink flooded and operating. If a few turns on the ice give you an urge to slap that puck around, just contact any Community Club officer, and they'll arrange to get you access to water and hoses, and let you go to it. If there's enough interest, the club will consider buying new hockey nets as well.

Then there's the sign at the S – curve, which is badly in need of replacing. Sign Guru Dave Johnson has ideas – boy, does he have ideas – but perhaps you do as well. Got thoughts on what you'd like to see down there, perhaps something you'd be willing to help build? Keep them in mind, as we hope to get moving on this in the next few months.

By the time this goes to press, judging will be all but over for the neighborhood lighting contest. But it's not really about competing, as Marcia Hales article makes clear. It's about bringing a little light to peoples lives. Hope you joined in.

**Editor's Note:** I received a hand-written letter from Edith Boynton, mailed just days before she passed away, following husband Howard by just a matter of weeks. Edith was the very first editor of the Breeze, and I had expressed an interest in talking to her about it. We never did have that talk, but I have her letter, and I thought it was worth sharing. To the many Park Pointers who knew Edith far better than I, I apologize for any errors in translation. Please feel free to correct me.

To the Editor  
Park Point Breeze

Thank you so much for publishing my "Thank You" for the sign put up down at the curve for my husband, Howard.

I thought perhaps that you might like to know that The Breeze was started by Gina Soetebier and myself. Don't ask me how long ago – I just don't remember.

I was the editor when it first was started –and for a year or so after that – but with families growing in number, etc., we both had to give it up because we simply didn't have the time. I don't remember who took over, but if I remember rightly the paper continued without any gap. I just thought you might like to know how The Breeze got started, and by whom.

Please excuse the lined paper. I've had to do so much writing in the past couple months that I'm all out of anything but this.

Keep up the good work on The Breeze  
Edith J. Boynton



A small but hungry crowd descended upon the pumpkin pie and cider at the November PPCC meeting

## *The Breeze*

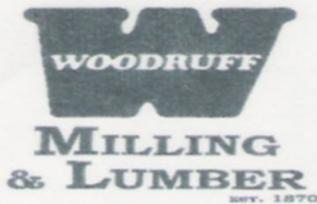
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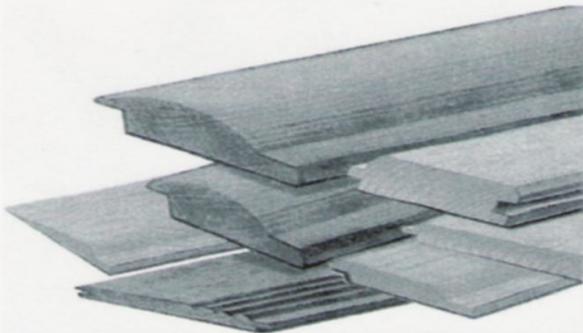
## **Park Point Resident**

### **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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