

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 36 issue 10

October 2007

Calendar

Park Point Community Club Meeting
October 18, 7Pm
at Lafayette
Candidates Forum Round Two!

Buoys & Gulls Mtg
Tuesday Nov 6th 1PM
Baypoint Estates
(Election Day--Vote too!!)
Program-Cleo Hutton-
Local Author-Stroke
Survivor

Hallowe'en Bingo
Thursday Oct25 11AM
Costumes encouraged!
Special prizes--
Potluck Dinner to follow.
Everyone invited.
Baypoint Estates

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

Defending The Bridge



No, the Department of Homeland Security hasn't gone completely over the edge. This slightly doctored photograph of a submarine passing under the Aerial Lift Bridge (taken from a vintage postcard provided by Tom Mackay) is in honor of Bridge Supervisor Ryan Beamer, a former Navy Submariner. Ryan spoke at the September Community Club meeting, demonstrating that not only is the bridge staffed by real people - not trolls, as some have alleged - but that they have a difficult job to do. They must juggle all kinds of traffic - large and small watercraft, cars, trucks, bicycles and pedestrians - and try to get them all over or under the bridge safely. And they take their share of abuse - though usually not from Park Pointers, who have come to accept the bridge as a force of nature.

Ryan stressed that under current rules, all boats have the right of way, and the bridge must lift if a boat requests it. This is where Ryan revealed his Submariner past. He stated that while serving on a submarine on the East Coast, the Navy had to observe strict "bridge times" when sailing in and out of harbor. He wasn't quite sure why a sailboat in Duluth has more clout than a Nuclear Submarine there. He did point out some bright spots, though. Due to better ship to ship communication, the boats of the Vista Fleet have become much better at coordinating their schedules so they pass under the bridge on the same lift. And the sailboats going out for the Wednesday Night races are getting better at gathering together to go in or out on a single lift. Read more of Ryan's remarks in the Minutes, on pages 5 and 6.

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is November 2nd for the November 2007 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

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

Surviving Candidates to appear at October Community Club Meeting

Those candidates for Mayor, 3rd District Council and Council at Large who survived the September primary will appear at another candidates' forum at the October Park Point Community Club meeting. In order to accommodate the candidates' busy schedules the PPCC has set specific times for the candidates to speak. Mayoral candidates will speak from 7:15 to 7:45, 3rd District Council candidates from 7:45 to 8:15, and Councilors at Large from 8:15 to 8:45. Open to all interested Park Pointers

(Editor's note: The Breeze recently received the following press release, that I thought would be of special interest to Park Pointers)

OVER THE TOP: Aerial Lift Bridge Refurbishing
Vintage photographs Winter of 1997
Photographs by Frank Nichol
October 7 – November 15, 2007

Towering over the Harbor and Canal Park area, the Aerial Lift Bridge is Duluth's most familiar and unique landmark. In the winter of 1997, Lakehead constructors undertook the repair of the bridge and replacement of two of the four steel shafts at the top of the bridge.

Artist/Craftsman and Millwright Frank Nichols was employed by Lakehead during this time and participated in these repairs. From this unusual and oftentimes precarious location, Frank shot a series of photographs using only simple point-and-shoot panorama and regular cameras. These photographs record not only an historic event but also capture the feeling of the season when they were shot.

Frank's evocative photographs engage the viewer. The monochromatic colors of the season, the soft focus of the images and the visually unique perspective give these photographs the feeling of landscapes from another time. They also record the life of the bridge in our not too distant past.

This exhibit of Frank Nichol's photographs entitled "Over The Top" will be on display at The Blue Iris Gallery from October 7 through November 15, 2007. The Blue Iris Gallery is located at the foot of the Aerial Lift Bridge next to the South Pier Inn. The Gallery's regular hours are from 10am – 5pm daily, except being closed on Wednesdays.

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St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church
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TURKEY BINGO NOVEMBER 18
1: 30 PM
at St. Mary's Star of the Sea



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Winter Hours: 7am – 8pm

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References available

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just one mile south of the Aerial Bridge

How St. Andrews Church's Collapsing Roof Will Quicken Needed Improvements

This is to tell everyone about St. Andrews' recent misfortune, how we encountered it, and our plan to treat a problem as an opportunity.

For two years we have been evaluating our church's program and mission, and how well-equipped we are to fulfill our responsibilities to members and community. We included much time studying our building, its capacity and how efficiently it performs for our active congregation as well as a resource to share with others.

We became ready for professional advice on how to improve use of our existing space, well aware that we are already pressing the limits of our lot size, making it difficult to enlarge the footprint of our building. In July we chose a Park Pointer, Rachel Wagner, of Wagner Zaun Architects to review our goals and suggest ideas to help us meet them.

Ms Wagner's first steps included a survey of our building, its purposes, dimensions and condition. She discovered a serious structural defect: the roof trusses over our mission hall are failing, making this large meeting space unsafe for occupancy. We installed jackposts for temporary support, but a structural engineer advises that these will only serve until we have winter's first snowload. By then we must either have a reconstructed roof, or stop using the room.

At this point we decided to transform our predicament into an opportunity to improve our space and flexibility. After considering several options, our members chose a preliminary plan for adding a second floor to our mission hall. Then, when the roof structure is replaced, it will cover two levels instead of one. The layout of the first floor would be re-vamped in the process.

The estimated cost of this major alteration is \$593,400, not including changes to the sanctuary, also on our wish-list. We have some funds already in hand, a combination of reserves for capital improvements plus early pledges from members helping to jump-start our campaign. We are investigating a possible insurance claim due to heavy snows of the Mar. 1 storm. (If you have any storm photos that might help, call Lori Thompson, 722-0848.) We have applied for a loan from the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota. We will seek short term gifts and longer term commitments from our members to repay debt incurred. We also will welcome contributions from individuals and organizations outside our membership who appreciate using our facilities for a variety of events. Non-members with an affinity for our church and its programs have already told us they wish to help.

By the time this is published in The Breeze, we hope to have a clear course and assurance that it is feasible for our relatively small congregation. We will continue to keep everyone informed of our progress as we navigate the design and construction stages. There will be some zigging and zagging as we refine our plan, but we are fortunate that our recent study of space needs prepared us to move forward confidently.

Minutes from August meeting approved.

V.P. Dave Poulin read two letters he received. First from City Planning, re. File 07016, building permit for new garage at 2905 Minnesota Ave. Adjoining property owners should have been notified re. application for this permit.

Second letter from new Park Point resident Jim Van Druten encouraging PP residents to use Bayside Market. Jim also had some ideas re. Lift Bridge lifts. Why not have some scheduled non-lift times? Perhaps a 30 minute block of time in the a.m. and p.m. for work commuters. Jim grew up in Duluth and most recently moved here from Appleton, WI.

Regular meeting suspended for a conversation with Ryan Beamer, Aerial Lift Bridge Supervisor. Ryan had some information he wanted us to pass along to our community re. safety on the bridge. He also had some interesting facts about bridge operations.

The bridge operator has a stressful job especially during busy summer months. Must juggle traffic of many types- boats, cars, pedestrians, cyclists and keep everyone safe.

Walk your bikes across the bridge on the sidewalk. Ride on the sidewalk only if it is clear of foot traffic.

Don't speed! The coffee spills and the 102 year old bridge wears faster. Even a jogger on a calm day can get the bridge shaking. A loaded dump truck going 30 mph actually sloshes coffee out of the pot.

Do not hang on the bridge understructure when it is going up. Ryan has seen parents let their kids hang on the bridge while it lifts- BAD IDEA- and very stressful for the operator.

Don't swerve around traffic to try beat the red lights, you might get stopped on the other side for a ticket. The gates don't come down until the lights are red. Don't panic and start backing up if gate goes down behind you, the operator will let you out on the other side. Gates have been damaged by vehicles backing up.

Call the bridge operator in advance if you need to haul something large across the bridge, operator will assist with bridge traffic. Also call if you have an early morning flight to catch so you can adjust your departure time from home. Bridge phone number is 723-3300.

If the operator is unprofessional on the speaker (ie gruff or profane), please call Ryan the supervisor.

Watch out for snow blower operators on the bridge, give them plenty of room.

All ships have the right of way. The bridge must go up for all boat traffic who request a lift. Sailboats are hard to see if they are right below the bridge's pilot house.

The goal is a 12 minute lift in an ideal world. It takes 2.5 minutes for bridge to go all the way up and another 2.5 minutes to come all the way down.

Bridge inspectors coming soon to inspect our fracture critical bridge which shares some characteristics with the bridge that failed in Minneapolis. No one called Ryan to ask if our bridge was safe after the 35W bridge came down. He was surprised that no one was wondering.

There will be some construction on the bridge this winter mostly at night. Police and fire protection will be stationed down here during lengthy lift periods during construction.

No tours for lifts except dignitaries at the mayor's request, too distracting for the operator. Definitely no little kids allowed.

Ryan said the number of lifts for the Vista fleet has decreased due to their use of walkie-talkies to coordinate lifts.

A resident wondered if the operator could call for traffic control assistance if traffic is backing up into town.

Capt. Tom Mackay wondered if Ryan had been issued his tunnel pass yet.....

Officer Tinsley discussed report printed in last month's Breeze. He explained the difference between burglary and robbery. He reminded residents to lock up houses, boats and cars. Most crimes are "crimes of opportunity."

Fireman Langlois reported that the number of calls from #5 this year is ahead of last year's count. The officers have been out in the neighborhood remapping every address on Park Point. He encourages all residents to put contrasting colored house numbers over front doors and garage doors. If the garage is detached make sure it has a number. There are rules about what kind of numbers you must have so check them out and get your property clearly numbered. The architectural firm, Architectural Resources, Inc., has been selected to transform the station into an attractive and updated fire hall that blends well with the character of the neighborhood. Fire hydrants by the nursing home have been repaired. Also hydrants that take water from the bay are in good order now. Call an exterminator, not the station if you have a bat problem. This question came up. Fire stations don't do cats or bats.

Committee Reports :

Financial Report- Treasurer out of town. Audit Committee of Tom Lyle, Dawn Buck, and Frank Puglisi will look over the accounts. Tom Lyle requested necessary documents to carry on with audit.

Art Fair Committee- working on the budget.

Youth Committee- motion to give Joy Fouts, the leader of the youth summer program, an honorarium of \$599.00 for her contribution to our community. Dennis Hoelscher explained how this honorarium has been done in the past and how this differs from the money the PPCC has given the city for program itself. This summer Joy was able to run the camp 5 days per week and extend the program a week with that extra money. Thanks to Joy for another successful summer youth program. Motion carried.

Environmental Committee-Dave Poulin reported on the environmental impact study process for the airport at Sky Harbor in regard to the tree cutting. There will be some committee work available for a PPCC member during this process.

Quality of Life Committee- Dennis Hoelscher reported that he is working on the community's safety issues of increased bridge lifts and lift times as related to our police and fire protection. He has been in contact with the Coast Guard and hopes to get Rep. Oberstar involved. A resident mentioned that the streetlight is out over the S curve. Officer Tinsley was going to get it taken care of via the City's channels. Dennis explained why the City would not allow us to paint the S-curve curbs yellow for increased visibility. There is concern that the curbs would be confused with the yellow centerline. However, there are yellow curbs on Railroad Street. Marcia Hales encouraged residents to start putting up holiday lights, perhaps organize by blocks for some spectacular displays. Please call her if you need help putting up lights, she has a very handy grandson. Donations collected at Marcia's holiday wonderland all go to the City Animal Shelters Spay/Neuter program. Pat Olson wondered if we should send a thank you to the Marshall School students who painted the bike rack and picnic tables here at the community club. They also trimmed some bushes and did some nice site beautification at Lafayette.

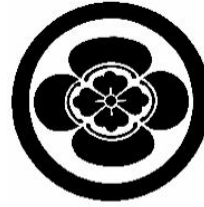
Duluth City Council candidates Heather Rand and Becky Hall listened in and chatted with residents afterwards.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Buck, Non-Idiot Temp. Secretary
Thanks to Diane G. for the brownies!

Yoga and Tai Chi at Lafayette

Yoga begins Mon. Oct. 15, 7PM
Tai Chi begins Wed. Oct. 17, 7PM
5 – class card - \$30.00

For more information,
Call 722-2357



Natural Home and Energy
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E-mail: naturalhomeandenergy@mac.com

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Contact Karen Arthur at 218-393-2226



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Heather RAND

An Independent Voice for the Independent Voter

Dear Duluthian,

I am seeking to represent you on the Duluth City Council and I need your vote on November 6th. As your councilor, please know that I'll do my best to help our city continue to realize its potential and I will work hard to make our 3rd District thrive.

The people of Park Point deserve a dedicated city councilor who will be responsive to their needs and has the ability to work well with a wide variety of people to get things done. Unlike my opponent, I am not indebted to special interest groups, nor did I seek political endorsements. This makes me uniquely capable of representing the broader interests of our community.

My public and private sector management experience including city and county administration, hands on constituent service provision at the city, county and state government levels, government budgeting and accountability practices, public employee supervision, land use planning, facilities management, and considerable experience lobbying the state legislature will serve you well. I am currently employed by the state of Minnesota as our northeastern Minnesota regional economic developer. As such, I work hard to assist businesses and communities in our region with growth strategies that will add better paying jobs and a more stable tax base.

While I am a Cloquet High School graduate, I have purposely chosen to make Duluth my home these last 18 years and currently volunteer on 3 city of Duluth Commissions (Planning, Higher Education, Heritage & Preservation). I am very committed to Duluth and our region.

As your city council representative, I will listen to your concerns and ideas. I'll work hard everyday to demonstrate the trust you have placed in me is deserved. I will strive to establish more cooperative, common ground on community issues so we can avoid gridlock. I will reflect the values of our community, not that of special interests. I would hope to gain your ongoing trust and support as I will be the city councilor who is working for you.

Sincerely,



Heather 



Editor's Corner

We had another informative and enjoyable Community Club meeting in September. It began with Bridge Supervisor Ryan Beamer giving a presentation and answering questions about the operation of the Aerial Lift Bridge. Then Police officer Mike Tinsley presented us with the latest crime statistics for the Point, explained the difference between burglary and robbery, spoke of the arrests made after a sting of car prowls, and gave tips on keeping ourselves and our property safe. Next, it was Firefighter Carmine Langlois who spoke. He updated us on the upcoming renovation of Fire Hall 5, the ongoing remapping of Park Point for the Fire Department, and gave us the rules on house numbers. (details on Page 10)

All in all, this meeting made clear that we have some very fine public servants working on our behalf here on Park Point. And occasionally, we should take a break from our grumbling and thank them.

Let's really put Our Park Point Neighborhood on the map in 2007

**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.**

In December, 2005, there were 90 plus homes welcoming neighbors and visitors alike as they traversed down the Point. Entire blocks sparkled with the enchantment of holiday whimsy and spirit. My guess would be that the friendly competition between neighbors brought folks together. As our Breeze editor wrote: "it's not about competing with our neighbors, but rather about brightening up our little corner of the world during the darkest time of the year." December 2006, an impressive 250 + homes, businesses and churches participated in "Lighting the Point". We even were recognized in the city wide lighting competition. Judging for the city wide contest usually is done during the first week in December.

October is a great month to start planning for even bigger and brighter displays. My challenge would be to start talking to your neighbors about lighting up this season. If you already light up your property, contact the neighbors in your area and encourage them to "plug in". If you are interested in coordinating a few blocks please give me a call at 727-4527 hopefully we can publish a list of block contacts next month.

Marcia Hales
3739 Lake Avenue South
727-4527

**Heated One-stall Garage
For Rent
on the Point
786-0309
or
733 -0575**

**For Sale
Items from Park Point School
Ceramic Frieze
Winged Lions
Vases
Rosettes
\$600
727-5855**

Halloween Carnival At Bayshore

1601 St. Louis Ave.
Saturday, October 20th

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Cakewalk Darts
Food Pop toss
Bingo raffle

**And much more.
Everyone welcome**



The Breeze

Park Point Community Club

P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326



Park Point Resident

House Numbers

The Fire Department is in the process of updating it's address information on Park Point, and would like to remind all of us of the City Ordinance on posting house numbers.

“House numbers should be at least 3” tall and painted in a contrasting color. Preferred locations are over the front or garage door, clearly visible from the street”

Sharla **GARDNER**

3rd District City Council

A Strong Advocate for the Heart of Duluth



“As your councilor, I will stand for, speak for (and, if necessary, shout for) the unique needs of Park Point residents”

- Defending parks and green spaces, including the Park Point forest
- Maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood
- Fixing our crumbling infrastructure

www.gardnerforcouncil.org

Prepared and Paid for by Gardner for Council 1428 East Tenth Street, Duluth, MN 55805