

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 37 issue 8

August 2008

Calendar

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting**

And

**Ice Cream Social
August 21st, 7PM
(Ice Cream at 6:30)**

**City officials will be on hand
to discuss Sanitary Sewer
Overflow Remediation.
(you'll want to eat your ice
cream first)**

**Buoys and Gulls
Sept Mtg @ 6:30PM
Tues Sept 2nd
(Note PM time!)
Baypoint Estate
Clubroom**

**Bingo continues
Thursdays @ 11:00AM
Also @ the Clubroom**

Tall Ships Take Duluth



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 Brig Niagara, pictured above, was one of three tall ships that sailed under the Lift Bridge on July 31st to kick off the Duluth Maritime Festival. The ships were greeted by a flotilla of small crafts – sailboats, powerboats, even kayaks and rubber rafts – and the piers of the ship canal were jammed with people. It meant major delays for anyone trying to get on or off the Point, but it was an impressive sight, as the ships came in under full sail. It was estimated that 125,000 people came to see them over the 3 days of the festival, making it the largest tourist event in city history. And from all reports, they were all in Canal Park whenever you were trying to drive through!

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is September 4th for the September 2008 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: Dave Poulin
3101 S. Lake Ave.
722-1511

Vice President: Liz Mackay
2233 Minnesota Ave
722-1834

Secretary: Dawn Buck
3105 Minnesota Ave.
525-1764

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR

Carla Tamburro
727-2661

Rummage Sale

Charlene Shimmin
722-6828

ENVIRONMENTAL

Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY

Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE RENTALS

Barb Flaig 940-2613
barbaraflaig@yahoo.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

Recreational Fires: Important Information

Over the years Park Point residents have had issues with visitors building fires on the beach and most Park Point residents know that beach fires are illegal in Duluth. However, it seems that residents are not familiar with the state fire code related to 'recreational fires' on private property. Presently many Park Point residents are regularly in violation of these codes. Not only can this pose a danger to you and your neighbors' property, it can be a significant health risk and financial risk. Your neighbors may file an insurance claim against your homeowners insurance for smoke damage caused by your backyard fire.

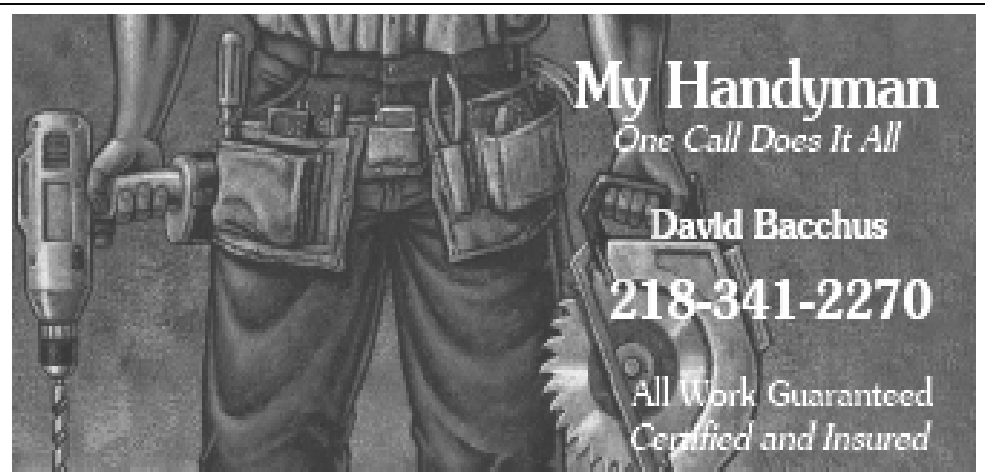
The main points of the code are recreational fires:

- Must be on private property
- Fires may be no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height
- Must be at least 25 feet from all buildings or combustible materials
- Must be constantly attended until the fire is completely out or is extinguished
- Minimum of one portable fire extinguisher or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand or a garden hose which must be readily available at all times
- Only wood from trees, small branches, brush or charcoal may be used (**no green wood, yard waste or grass that will produce large amounts of smoke.**) **No treated lumber, construction debris, garbage, plastic, or waste material.**
- Must be extinguished immediately if poses a fire risk or is not in compliance

According to the fire fighters at the Park Point fire station they regularly are called to Park Point residences because of the smoke nuisance to neighbors' property. With our city budget in crisis, can we afford this expense instead of being more thoughtful neighbors?

Many cities are adopting significantly more restrictive ordinances, a significant number banning all recreational fires within the city limits. Park Point has relatively small lot sizes and your fire will always affect your neighbors. We have made great strides in Minnesota related to indoor air quality, please be sure that you are not putting your family or neighbors health at risk by polluting the indoor air quality with smoke from backyard fires. Summer is short and many residents do not have air conditioning so closing windows is not always an option.

Please take personal responsibility so that Duluth is not forced to ban backyard fires all together.



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References available

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Park Point Community Club Meeting Minutes July 17, 2008

Meeting held in the lower level of Lafayette, upper level rented out for the evening. Approximately 35 members signed in and approximately 60 people total attended the meeting. City Councilors Sharla Gardner and Roger Reinert attended. Also County Commissioner Dennis Fink and Kathy Bergen and Mark McShane from the City of Duluth attended.

Last month's meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's report - Chuck Flaig out of town.

Dave Poulin read correspondence received. One letter from Grandma's Marathon reminding Park Point residents about the Park Point Five Miler benefiting young athletes to be held on Friday, July 18. Dave Johnson will make a note on the S-curve sign reminding residents of road closure. Other note from Joy Fouts, youth program director, asking Dave to remove dead mouse from the trap-line in the closet under the stairs. Dave reports 5 mice "apprehended" to date.

Firefighter Chad Rindal's report – 12 calls this month. 7 medicals, 4 miscellaneous, 1 fire. Up 19 calls to date compared to last year. Chad described recreational fire parameters, 3 ft. wide and 2 feet tall and 25 feet from structures. Be considerate of your neighbors and have extinguisher on hand. No beach fires are allowed.

Hospitality report- Diane Gould read a thank you card from Joy that the kids had made thanking the community club for its support of the youth program. The wonderful food for the meeting was also provided by Joy.

Art Fair report – A huge thank you to Carla and Jake, the art fair was a great success!

Discussion about the layout improvements for food vendors, use of a commercial generator for power supply, would like the City to add power supply for next year.

Environmental Committee report –Scoping document coming from the DNR, approx. 30 agencies are involved in analyzing the airport site. Optimistic that trees won't be cut.

New business- Possible city land sale at 43rd and Minnesota Ave.

Kathy Bergen from Parks and Rec. Dept. reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission had voted to support the sale of this property designated as Parcel 4 on the maps that were passed out for inspection. The property proposed for sale includes 225 ft. of property before 4488 Minnesota Ave. and 200 ft. of property past 4500 Minnesota Ave.

Mark McShane from City administrative services answered questions about the possible sale of the property, which is valued at between 1.7 and 1.86 million dollars. The property is zoned R1C1 which is single dwelling residential with shore land restrictions. Mark has been researching the history of the property and its legal status with regard to possible sale so please share any information you have with him and the city councilors.

Answers to some of the questions asked by community members:

Yes the sewer and water is in place on parcel 4.

No condos allowed under present zoning designation on Parcel 4.

Some of the money from previous sale of parkland and city property has gone back into community programs.

Parcel 4 is not parkland, the City purchased it from a corporation in 1936.

No other property on Park Point is being considered for sale at this time.

The City is considering sale of many properties, not just on Park Point, a citywide process to generate revenue.

The sale of this parcel would take 2 actions by the City Council. The Council could make restrictions on how this property would be developed.

What about docks on the bay side of the property? Yet to be determined.

A show of hands displayed that most people at the meeting thought Parcel 4 was parkland. It's confusing because the park sign is located at the end of the residential area just after the bus turnaround.

Abstract or Torrens title ?

Proposed lots would be 75 or 100 feet. Need a minimum of 50 feet on the street.

A simple majority of votes would be needed by the City Council on this property sale decision.

According to city officials, no developer has come forward in pursuit of this property.

A Park Point resident suggested the sale to solve money woes.

After this possible land sale became public information, City received 2 inquires about property.

After question and answer session the discussions continued.....

Discussion about how some residents would like more details about how the property would be developed before they make a decision as to whether they favor the sale or are against it.

Discussion followed about how the 2 homes, 4488 & 4500, fit in with the Park.

Discussion about how Parcel 4 could be converted to park property.

Discussion about maintenance and sale of tax forfeit property- Commissioner Fink.

Discussion about the short amount of time the City Councilors had to gather information on this issue before it came on the agenda.

Council President Reinert offered to table this issue (item 457) to give community members more time to look at the sale of Parcel 4. Motion that PPCC gather information on this issue and put a survey in the Breeze. Motion carried.

Another motion that the Executive Board of the PPCC meet and discuss the process of gathering information and opinions about the sale of Parcel 4 on Park Point for publication in the Breeze. Motion carried.

A thank you to city officials for gathering information and sharing it with our community at this meeting so we are informed and can get involved with the process.

Many meeting attendees decided to pay their PPCC membership in order to vote at the next meeting.

Ice cream social next month, don't miss it !

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St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church

The renovation of the church building has begun! Already the inside has been gutted in several places. Soon the roof will come off over the Mission Hall (back 1/3 of the church building). We are trying to re-use as much as we can (counters, doors, windows, flooring) and go as green as we can afford. Already we have eliminated one furnace!

Please note: **The Habitat House is being removed and is no longer available for cans. Please do not bring cans to this location any longer, and we thank those of you who have donated your cans in the past.**

It's been a busy summer for our youth. Both the Junior and Senior High went on camping trips (part of their Confirmation journey). In late July, nine of our teens were confirmed at a wonderful service of celebration to honor their faith journey.

We continue to observe our 100th Anniversary, and are in the midst of an outreach project called "100 Years, 100 Gifts". We are collecting household items to be given to the Women in Transition Shelter. Soon we will begin another outreach project that will stretch over to the Middle East (Pakistan and Afghanistan).

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Summer Blessings.

Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski, Vicar

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH 2004 Minnesota Ave.

SUNDAY MASS 9 AM

**Coffee & Rolls Second Sunday
after mass**

**We say farewell to Father Jon Wild
Your stay was much too short.
May God Bless you as you head west
to St. Elizabeth Parish.**

**If you are planning to travel this summer
mass schedules maybe found at:
masstime.org**

CHURCH OFFICE 722-3078

Sometimes, you've just got to make the best of it



The Duluth International Regatta on July 12th hit one of the rare days when the water was too rough to row on either side of the Point. So it became a dry land competition, as teams "raced" on rowing machines set up in front of the Club's building on Park Point. It was still a spirited competition, but as the article at right shows, DRC does better on the water

Duluth Rowing Club

This past weekend, the Duluth Rowing Club rowed to an impressive 3rd Place Finish at the 2008 Northwestern International Rowing Association Championship Regatta in Kenora, Ontario.

Approximately 450 competitors, 53 of which were from Duluth, participated in the two-day Regatta.

Participating teams were from Duluth, MN; Rochester, MN; St. Paul, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Twin Cities Youth Rowing Club; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Kenora, Ontario; Pinnewa, Manitoba; Regina, Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Thunder Bay, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In addition to receiving numerous 2nd & 3rd places, Duluth Rowing Club members placed 1st and received gold medals in the following events:

- Pete Olson: Masters Men's Single
- Gretchen Madson & Bonnie Fuller-Kask: Masters Women's Pair
- Ben Ellison, Jonathon Halquist, Josh Schuder & Scott Grindy: Junior Men's Quad

The DRC currently has 60 competitive high school aged junior rowers and 50 competitive & recreational adult rowers. For more information and practice times, please visit our website at www.duluthrowing.org

The Park Point Land Sale

Where are we?

At the July Community Club meeting, city officials appeared before a substantial crowd in the basement of Lafayette to explain a proposed sale of city land near the recreation area on Park Point. As the officials explained it, this property lies outside the Park boundaries, is zoned R1-C (for single family homes), is on a strip of land that already has two homes on it. The land in question is currently listed in the Comprehensive Plan as Recreational, and the plan would have to be amended before the sale could take place (See the City's FAQ's on page 9). Some of the city's claims were disputed by residents at the Community Club meeting, and the City Councilors in attendance (Council President Roger Reinert and our own councilor Sharla Gardner) offered to table the measure until the Community club could take some sort of a survey to gauge residents feelings toward the sale. True to their word, they have done so at the last two City Council meetings.

The City Administration, of course, is seeking the sale for obvious reasons. They need the money. They (we!) are facing a major budget deficit, and as they should be, they're looking at every possible way of closing it.

The Community Club executive board had hoped to be able to print a survey in this issue of the Breeze. However, the City Administration has urged the council to take action on it now, so if approved it could go before the Planning Commission (or is it Board?) on August 12th, before this issue will hit the streets. So the Executive Board came together to draft a survey.

Meanwhile, residents down near the affected area received a letter from the City Planning Commission stating that they had received a petition from the City Administration asking that change the areas from **43rd Street to approximately 45th Street on Park Point, which is currently categorized as "Recreational" to "Neighborhood Traditional" on the future use map of the Duluth Comprehensive Land Use Plan(2006).** It further states **The purpose of the request is for future sale of the property to be used for residential purposes.**

Now it's pretty clear that the area from 43rd street to 45th street is considerably larger than the parcel that City officials told us was being considered for sale. In fact it includes the land that the city sites in its FAQ's (page 9), as state land that was free-conveyed to the city, and must remain public land or be returned to the state. To my knowledge, the Community Club has been given no reason why this was included. So the executive board decided to include a question about this issue on the survey as well. (Admittedly, we erred a bit here, confusing the change in the future land use map with a change in zoning. The zoning wouldn't change, basically because the city zoning code is so out of date it doesn't even have a category for Recreational. As I understand it, even the Park is R1-C).

Anyway, we drew up this survey, got it printed and had volunteers deliver it to homes along the Point. No doubt a few were missed, but it's not really a scientific survey, and it's as much informational as it is a gauge of public sentiment.

Now, let's toss the latest development into the mix. In discussions with Park Point residents opposed to the sale, the Mayor offered a challenge of sorts. If we can't raise the money through this land sale, how do we cover the deficit. So the proposal was made to sell the whole end of Park Point, including Southworth Marsh, the beach house and Recreation Area, the Pine Forest and old lighthouse, back to the state to be made into a state park. It's not really a new idea. A state park was considered for this area many years ago. And it has some support. City Councilor Sharla Gardner, County Commissioner Dennis Fink, State Representative Mike Jaros have all expressed interest in the idea. Even Mayor Ness sees possibilities, but his problems are more immediate. State Parks can take years to develop. The city needs money NOW. So, what happens next? As I write this, all I know for sure is that it will come before the City Council again on Monday August 11th – just as this issue goes to press. Will it be tabled again? Passed on to the Planning Commission? Will a compromise be found? Perhaps some land sold, some preserved? Or will the whole deal be tossed out the (Tiffany Stained Glass) window? Stay tuned.

Alan Dartanyan, Breeze Editor

PARK POINT LAND SALES
Frequently Asked Questions

In January 2008, the City of Duluth found a \$4.5 million deficit in 2008, an \$8.5 million deficit for 2009, and a dangerously low budget reserve. Since that time, the administration has been exploring hundreds of budget recovery strategies that will have the least possible impact on core city services.

The land sale in question is a vital strategy for the City to achieve greater financial stability. As the City struggles to avoid cuts to public safety and significant layoffs of city employees, this land sale becomes absolutely necessary.

Q: Where are the parcels located on Park Point that the City wants to sell?

A: Near the end of Park Point, between the bus turnaround and the Park. There is 225 feet on one side and 200 feet on the other side of the two existing residential homes.

Q: Is this land within the safety zone of the airport?

A: No.

Q: Is this land dedicated park land?

A: No. This land was purchased by the City in 1936 and is not park land.

Q: Where does the Park begin?

A: The Park boundary is adjacent to the land the City wishes to sell. The City will not sell any land identified on plat maps as the Minnesota Point Park, Recreation, and Health Center.

Q: What are the benefits resulting from the sale of City land?

A: The City continually evaluates its land inventory and requests for sale of land by citizens and others. Sales of parcels of land occur each year. Revenue from sales are critical to the budget repair strategy of the City. A Real Property Appraisal Consulting Report determined that if the land was divided into five lots, the value would exceed \$1.8 million total.

Q: What is the Parks commission position on sale of this land?

A: The Parks Commission, at their July 9, 2008 meeting, voted in favor of supporting the sale.

Q: What is the zoning?

A: R-1-C, which is Residential use.

Q: Is the Comprehensive Plan impacted?

A: Yes. The Comp Plan use classification is "Recreation". It would need to be amended to reflect the existing, residential use (two homes) and proposed new residential use and would be classified as "Traditional Neighborhood".

Q: Will the sales impact public use of the beach?

A: The City plans to retain the beach on the lake side consistent with the typical width of public beach found along the Park Point waterfront.

Q: Who owns the land between the existing residential homes (before the bus turnaround) and the land the City wants to sell?

A: This is state land that was Free-conveyed to the City and must remain as public use land or it would revert back to the state.

Prepared by the city of Duluth



Diane Gould presides over an array of goodies provided by the Summer Youth Program families

The community Club received the following Thank You from the Summer Youth Program Director. It was accompanied by a hand made book of thanks from the kids, and an impressive buffet of goodies prepared by their families (see photo above)

Community Club/Park Pointers

I wanted to thank you for all you do in supporting the Summer Program. Not only the new fridge, counter tops, funding, the volunteers who have helped make our donated bikes safe, but for so many other things. – the list is endless. Thank you.

Years have come and gone and I have not always been able to thank everyone but that doesn't mean I don't silently say "thank you" every morning when I come to work at the end of the day when I close the door.

Stop down any time and see us in action!

Joy

p.s. sorry about all the sand and paint splatters!

Art Fair

I apologize for my lateness in saying thanks. My most heartfelt appreciation neighbors for all your hard work and the hours you spent keeping the art fair running. Thank you to the behind the scenes folks who kept the place tidy by doing the dirty. Thanks to the 'electrical engineers', haulers, markers, booth sitters and greeters you are a real treat. Comrades could you help me take this bow. We put on a exceptional event and showcased some great art work. The music sounded great, the children were smiling and dancing, everyone looked happy and the weather cooperated. Our gratitude to mother nature also!

I've received many thanks from artists for awards, sales, smooth runnings and the appreciation shown by our community for their coming out and making the 38th annual Park Point Art Fair a real hit.

One artist commented specifically about the Thank you artists, Bye, We love you signs. Great thinking. You thought when I couldn't, took charge of details, and helped a ton. Most of all you made it fun. Looking forward to 2009.

In appreciation for volunteering pick up a brand new 100% cotton t- shirt, mediums and smalls only left.

Carla Tamburro and Jake Kapsner

PPAF Coordinators

Congratulations to the Park Point Garden Club

The Park Point Garden Club's garden at Lafayette was recently declared the winner of the Garden Club Garden division of the Duluth Garden Flower Society's 2008 Garden Contest. Great job to everyone involved.

S-curve Sign

On occasion, comments have appeared on the s-curve sign that some people have considered controversial. To that end, the Executive Board of the Park Point Community club would like to remind everyone that:

Opinions expressed on the S-curve sign are not necessarily those of the Park Point Community Club!

(We're not responsible for the bad jokes, either!)

Editor's Corner

This has been one of those months when there's just so much going on that, even after expanding the Breeze to 12 pages from its usual 12, I still can't include everything I'd like. It also highlights the drawbacks to using a monthly newsletter to convey information. Things happen so quickly that, before I can get them in print, they've changed, become moot, or are simply old news. Still, I urge everyone to read through this issue carefully. There is information on a number of subjects that may be of interest to you. Me, I'm dedicating my little bit of remaining space to a subject dear to my heart: **Ice Cream! August 21st Meeting. See you there**

Volunteers Needed to Help Build New Park Point Playground

The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation has gifted the city \$25,000 for the purpose of enhancing our park system. The city has decided to build a new playground at the Park Point Recreation site. A total of 30 volunteers are needed to help the City of Duluth Park Maintenance workers build the playground. Already 10 members of the DSCF Board of Directors have volunteered but we still need 20 more people.

With a team of 30 people the playground will be built in one day.

The new playground will be built on Friday, August 22 beginning at 8:00 AM.

Thanks

Amy Norris
Public Information Coordinator

To the Editor:

**Several times a year the DNT disappears from our box, off and on for several weeks. If others in our neighborhood have a similar situation, perhaps together we could come up with some ideas for dealing with this. For example, I've wondered how to offer the person(s) a subscription so they wouldn't need to take ours- We're in the 1100 block on Lake Avenue.
Warren Howe**

Editor:

I have never been one to write a letter to the Editor, However I turn to you, my neighbors and friends for your help.

We live on the Bay side of park point, with a great view of herding island. It is my understanding that as a wild life refuge, it is "protected". That people are allowed to walk on the island but should not disrupt this home for the foxes, birds, deer, beaver and other creature that live over there. Certainly not bring domestic animals over there.

Now here is where I ask for help:

Every day, and sometimes twice a day, a male in his mid-fifties arrives in a Lund fishing boat with two hunting dogs. They are desecrating the island. He allows his dogs to run free, he uses the island as his own personal liter box for the dogs, and they are ruining the shoreline with urine and feces.

I have never seen him clean up after his dogs, they go wherever they wish. We are experiencing a lower than usual duck population due to the dogs killing off baby chicks. I have personally witnessed a brutal attack on a mother duck protecting her young, and having her wing broken by one of the dogs. One other occasion the dogs were chasing a young fawn on the island, the deer was terrified.

I do not place blame with the dogs. It is the owner. He needs to be held responsible for his pets, and **KEEP THEM OFF THE ISLAND.**

My hope is that there are other neighbors out there, who see this, and are also fed up with this guy's lack of respect for our environment, and will turn him in.

Please help keep Herding Island for who it is meant for, our wildlife. We are so fortunate to have this refuge in our backyards. It is everyone's responsibility to protect the creatures who live there.

Thank you, for your help in this matter.
Michael Walsburg

The Breeze

Park Point Community Club
P.O. Box 16326
Duluth, MN 55816-0326



Park Point Resident

Numbers you can use

Got (non-emergency) issues you'd like to discuss, but don't know whom to call? Here's some numbers you can use: Parks Maintenance Division: 723-3425 (after hours 723-33330)

Fire station #5 (Park Point): 723-3215

Community Police Officer Mike Tinsley: 390-2863

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