

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 38 issue 12

www.parkpointcommunityclub.org

December 2009

Calendar

**Park Point Community Club
Meeting**

**NO December Meeting
Happy Holidays!**

**Annual membership meeting
in January
Plus update on the Airport**

**First Day of Chanukkah
December 12**

**First Day of Winter
December 21**

**Christmas Day
December 25**

**First Day of Kwanzaa
December 26**

**Good Dog Club
Wednesdays at 6:30**

What Can Be Built Here?



There was a presentation at the November PPCC on a proposal to rezone almost an acre of land on Park Point. The property lies on the south side of 16th Street and stretches from Minnesota Avenue back to St. Louis Avenue. The front half of this property, along Minnesota Avenue, is currently a vacant lot. A few years ago an old garage on the site was razed, some tall trees were cut down and the lot leveled. Neighbors expected the lot to be developed at that time. But instead, other than a fence erected to block the view of the house behind it, the lot has only been used as a temporary dumping site for sand and soil excavated at other sites. Now that the back half has been acquired, along with the old house on it, the developers proposed rezoning the entire property from R-1-C (one and two family residential) to R-3 (apartment residential). The stated purpose of the rezoning was to “make this property available for redevelopment into modest density multi-family use.” The issue came before the Planning commission on November 10th. A number of neighbors wrote letters to the Planning commission opposing the zoning change, and several spoke at the meeting, noting that an R-3 designation would allow for up to a 26 unit apartment building, and was (continued on page 2)

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 1st for the January 2010 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 727-2814
lafayette.pgcc@yahoo.com

S-CURVE SIGN

Dave Johnson, 722-9764

SUNSHINE

Pam Griggs
727-2158
peggriggs@clearwire.net

Park Point Community Club
P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326

www.

parkpointcommunityclub.org

(continued from page 1)

contrary to the land use laid out in the City's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission unanimously rejected the zoning change.

The developers, Park Pointers Paul and Deb Kellner, and Thom and Bridget Reistad, plan to appeal the commission's decision to the City Council – but not in quite the same form. Thus, the presentation to the Community Club was designed both to explain the changes in their rezoning proposal, and also to provide more detail into what their intentions were for the property. Under the current proposal, only the back half, fronting St. Louis Avenue, would be rezoned to R-3. The half fronting Minnesota Avenue would be rezoned to R-2. This would allow for a couple of single story duplexes along Minnesota Avenue, with a smaller apartment building on the St. Louis Avenue side.

To many of the neighbors, the issue goes beyond the project itself, which to all appearances would be sensitively done. It is a question of whether it is appropriate to rezone any part of Park Point to allow for higher density housing, given it's traffic problems, limited access (one bridge) and already stressed utilities. The city's comprehensive plan calls for low density housing in this area.

The matter was scheduled to be heard at the November 23rd City Council meeting. However, a motion was passed to table the item, so it could be discussed at a Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilor Jim Stauber, who made the motion to table, stated that it was done because of a change in the way the city staff brings a request to the council. They (the Council) were only given the choice to deny the request, not approve it. And they were not given the staff information on why the request was made. It is likely that the matter will be brought up at the December 7th meeting – after this issue goes to print. So by the time you're reading this, the decision will probably already be made. Will the council stand behind the Planning Commission, the City Planner, and the Comprehensive Plan? We'll see.

Still Available - BRIDGED

A Collaboration of Recipes from the Park Point Community is still available and would make a good Christmas gift. There are only about 40 left and when they are gone we will not reprint.

Cookbooks can be purchased for \$10.00 by calling Diane Gould at 727-4067

FYI

You can receive a free smoke alarm from the City by calling 723-3215. This includes a DC smoke detector with a 10-year lithium battery, delivery and installation. It is available to all homeowners. (Renters should receive smoke alarms from their landlord.)

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 2802 Minnesota Avenue
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www.standrewsbythelake.org

This morning (December 4th) the front page headlines carried this article: "Neediest suffer as charities lose cash". In this month of December, as Christians observe the season of Advent and move toward the Feast of the Incarnation (Christmas), I encourage you to put the fruit of your prayer life to work -- give to others. Instead of (or in addition to) buying gifts for those who might have everything they already need - how about giving a gift to CHUM, Daminano, the Gospel Mission, Safe Haven, Bethany Crisis Nursery, Life House for Teens, Animal Allies -- in honor of someone you care about. What do you care about? Give to that organization to help make someone else's life better. When we look at the Christ Child in the manger, we get a window into the nature of God (the Holy, the Divine). Part of the Divine nature is generosity. Please give in that spirit of generosity and abundance -- even in this time of economic hardship for many of us as well. When we give - we enrich ourselves - and we make our worship real. Then -- after you give -- come and worship. You are invited to **Christmas Eve Eucharist at St. Andrew's by the Lake, December 24th, 5 p.m.** We have an open Table -- and all are welcome to participate in the spiritual nourishment we receive from God in Christ.

Advent Blessings and Christmas Joy.
 The Rev. Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski
 Vicar, St. Andrew's by the Lake

Our Lake of Mercy Catholic Church
 2002 Minnesota Ave
 722-3078

Priests: Fr. Kuriakose Nediakala and Fr. John Golobich

Deacons: and Ted Windus Sr.

Prayer for Vocations

Almighty Father, we beg You for an increase in religious vocations and holy marriages in our diocese. Help us to be generous in our response to your call. Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work and strengthen us with the courage to say "Yes" and to follow you.

Help us as a diocese, as a parish, as families to encourage and foster vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated life. We commend our prayers to our patroness, Mary, Queen of the Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Services

Christmas Eve – 12:10 P. M. at St. Mary's Star of the Sea
 4:00 P. M. Christmas Carols – St. Mary's Star of the Sea
 4:30 P. M. Mass – St. Mary's Star of the Sea
Christmas Day – 9:00 A. M. at Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations
 Every Sunday at 9:00 A. M.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Every Sunday at 8:30 A. M.



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A checklist to see if a **Reverse Mortgage** might make sense for you.


- ☒ Could you use extra cash or monthly income?
- ☒ Do you have quite a bit of equity in your home?
- ☒ Do you want to remain living in your home for as long as possible?
- ☒ Are there repairs or improvements you would like to make to your home?
- ☒ Are there extra things you would like to do for yourself and your loved ones?

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Park Point Community Club Meeting Minutes November 19, 2009

Meeting was held at Lafayette Square, upper floor. The president and secretary were present.

(MSC = motion, seconded and carried)

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:06pm by President Dave Poulin

- MSC to approve October's minutes printed in the Breeze. Lavamaki/Gould

Art Fair Committee- Carla Tamburro distributed art fair budget worksheet and explained the advantages of "Zaplication", an online application system for artists, and the costs associated with the service.

- MSC that the art fair coordinator spend up to \$2000.00 to implement the Zaplication process as part of the 2010 Art Fair Budget. Lavamaki/Gould

Breeze report- No action taken, Alan working.

Neighborhood crime report- Officer Mike Tinsley reported that there were approx. 35 calls over the last month. Things are relatively quiet.

Youth Committee- Discussion about the shed proposed last month and who would store what. Dave Poulin distributed a drawing by Jim Ouray for a concept shed that would match Lafayette's architecture and provide storage areas and a shade area for kids and gardeners.

- MSC to adopt the shed design submitted by the Lafayette Edible Community Garden and to spend up to \$3500 on the shed (pending approval by the City). Bjerklie/Robins

Environmental Committee- Trees have been planted at the end and at 12th.

Park Point Properties-Paul and Deb Kellner and Thom and Bridget Reistad distributed packets with photos describing their property at 16th and Minnesota Ave. They presented their concept for the development of the property to the community.

Meeting adjourned 8:54 pm

Dawn Buck, Secretary

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Swedish Therapeutic Massage

This is a more advanced form of Swedish Massage, the most commonly known type of bodywork. The goal is to relax the body by rubbing the muscles with long, deep strokes using the hands and palms to release toxins and enhance circulation. 60 minute session.

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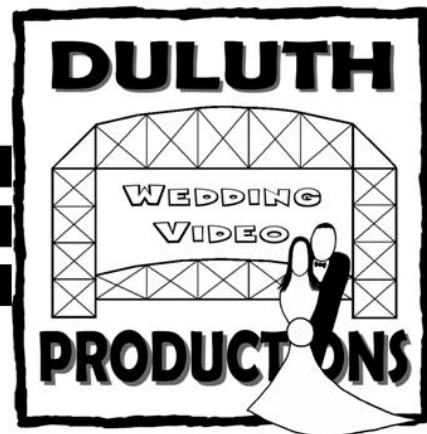
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News from the Edible Garden

Dinner and Worms

The Lafayette Community Edible Garden members enjoyed another communal dinner at the Community Center on November 22. The meal consisted of five homemade soups and various side dishes and desserts, one of which was a dirt-and-worm cake, in honor of the evening's speaker, Ellen Sandbeck, a proponent of worm composting.

As the author of several books, including *Eat More Dirt* (Broadway Books, 2003), and *Organic Housekeeping* (Schribner, 2006), Ellen is something of an expert on living a "green" lifestyle. She grows and sells composting worms, and her customers include area schools and Lake Superior Zoo. Garden member Coral McDonnell reports, "Ellen brought a sample 17-gallon worm bin [to the meeting] and demonstrated (with her bare hands) how to lift the soil and worms and put in your kitchen garbage underneath. The worms will eat almost any leftovers from your kitchen and even your old dirty cotton sox in a very short time. They don't like doughy white bread, newspaper, or polyester. The bin has a little faucet at the bottom which you can drain periodically and harvest worm tea which is the best fertilizer ever for your plants. It is powerful stuff and needs to be mixed with water at a ratio of 1 part worm tea to 20 parts water. For more info about worm composting, check out Ellen's website: www.lavermeswormes.com."

Join us at our next potluck dinner and meeting on January 17th. Rather than having worms on the evening's menu, the highlight will be a discussion of the organizational charts developed for our garden efforts. And, our guest speaker will be Bob Olen, MN Extension educator and local gardening expert. Our meetings are open to anyone, but if you want to join us officially, call Coral (727-6455). There are several categories of membership, some of which make wonderful gifts. You might also consider a donation to your community garden in honor of, or in memory of, a loved-one.

Giving Thanks for the Little Things

As we draw to the close of 2009, the Lafayette Community Edible Garden members are surveying the long way our garden has come since we first conceived of it six months ago. With the support of the Park Pointers who opened their gardens for our garden tour, attended our garden tour, joined the Park Point Community Club in supporting our endeavor, donated goods and (wo)man hours to build the garden, enthusiastically attended our meetings, and who dropped off their yard waste to create the foundation of our mulching bins, we have accomplished much in a short time. Thank you. As the garden grows and blossoms, we hope it will bring smiles to your faces and be a source of community pride.

Max Organics on the Radar

Our source for the five pounds of newly-planted garlic bulbs in the community garden, Hobbs Garden Magic, has also turned out to be a source of information about Max Organics, the Park Point producer of garlic cloves sold at Whole Foods Co-Op. Rumor has it that Max is the 8-year-old son of a Harbor Point Circle resident who is teaching his child about entrepreneurship through raising crops in his home garden. Max, if you're out there and reading this, we would love to meet you.

Editor's Corner

December is upon us, and as I look out my window I can see just a dusting of snow on the ground. It was a nice November, and I haven't missed shoveling, but as a skier I find myself looking across the bay to see if the snow guns are going on Spirit Mountain. They are.

And now that the cold is finally here I imagine our volunteers will soon be unrolling the hoses at Lafayette to flood the rink. Hopefully we'll have a nice sheet of ice down there before the kids get out on their holiday break.

I was down to "Bentleyville Tour of lights" at Bayfront last weekend. It's something. Bright, whimsical, filled with crowds and the hustle and bustle of the season. I recommend it. But for a bit more peaceful experience, don't forget to pay a visit to Marcia Hale's to see the real "Holiday Spirit in the Lights".

It's been almost a year now. I should have adjusted. But especially in the holiday season, I must say I still really miss Bayside Market.

I was a little reluctant to bring up what became my front page article, on the rezoning proposal at 16th street. I do try to maintain a certain amount of impartiality in the Breeze, especially if a controversy has all Park Pointers on both sides. (If it's mainlanders? Man the Barricades!) But this issue strikes so close to home – literally right outside my front door – that I can't help but let some of my feelings show through. Sorry, but hey, I am the editor!

Nice Work



The newly cleaned and leveled Boat Club site at 13th and the bay

I thought it might be a good idea to get the word out to the neighbors as to recent developments with the Boat Club property behind us between 13th and 15th Streets. As those of us with adjacent property already know, there has been a flurry of activity over the past couple of days to clean up and level out the lot. This effort was spearheaded by Mike Sawinsky, a new Board member with the DBC, who took the initiative with funding support from the Boat Club to hire a contractor with a bulldozer and to rent a SkidSteer, which Mike operated to do the cleanup work. People will notice that the property is now level, with a berm, which Mike had constructed to deter revelers from driving onto the property and trashing it. He also plans to construct a gate at the entry, so that cars can enter only with permission. I think these plans should help with preservation of the property and it will still be accessible on foot for those of us who would want to walk there. Mike also plans on seeding the lot at some point. The debris which he collected is now in one pile, which should be cleaned up and hauled away in the near future.

I thanked Mike for his work on this project and think he has done a great job! Hopefully, this will encourage and inspire the DBC to continue with plans for a modest meeting space there for their member organizations and for community use. I think we all would prefer to see that outcome, rather than having to fight yet another proposal for multi-unit housing/motel/condo development here on the Point. Mike also invited any of us to attend the DBC Board meetings whenever they are held.

John Clark Pegg
1335 Minnesota Ave.

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: 730-4491 (after hours 730-4150)
Fire station #5 (Park Point): 723-3215 Community Police Officer Mike Tinsley: 390-2863
City Councilor Sharla Gardner: 724-4701 sharla.gardner@gmail.com

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