



The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 41 issue 2

www.parkpointcommunityclub.org

February 2012

Calendar

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting
February 16th, 7PM
at Lafayette**

**Lafayette Edible Garden
Potluck
February 19th
4-7PM
at Lafayette**

**Park Point Rummage Sale
June 8 & 9**

**Park Point Art Fair
June 23 & 24**

Still a Little Hockey on Park Point



It would be an understatement in the least to say this has been a challenging year for maintaining ice rinks around the city. And no place more so than then at Lafayette, with our regular “iceman” Dave Lavamaki laid up for the season. But as the picture above shows, when the weather has allowed, we’ve still had some pretty good ice, and people have been out enjoying it. I caught this inter-generational – and inter-species – match-up on a sunny Sunday that was “unseasonable cold” (You know, that’s below 32 degrees this year)

While a few volunteers have stepped up, the real credit for the ice this year has to go to the city crews, who’ve been laying down water and sweeping the ice whenever the weather allowed. The advantage of a year when the demand for snow plowing and removal is minimal, - and for grooming of cross country ski trails non-existent - it frees up the city crews for other jobs, from trimming trees to maintaining rinks. We appreciate their efforts.

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 March 1st for the March 2012 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: Dick Gould
3003 Minnesota Ave.
727-4067

Vice President: Liz Mackay
2233 Minnesota Ave.
722-1834

Secretary: Sheryl Robins
722 Minnesota Ave.
720-6518

Treasurer: Al Robins
722 Minnesota Ave.
720-6518

Committees

ART FAIR
Carla Tamburro
727-2661

Rummage Sale

Charlene Shimmin 722-6828
Dave Lavamaki 729-8925

ENVIRONMENTAL
Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY
Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE RENTALS
Missy Steichen 218-208-9545
ppccdhlh@gmail.com

THE POSTCARD
Dave Johnson, 722-9764
amethyst@chartermi.net

SUNSHINE
Pam Griggs
727-2158
peggriggs@clearwire.net

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

From the President

Is Spring really here? I'm seeing birds here early, no snow, no ice on the lake, but I keep remembering my uncle Bobs quote, "Mother Nature always gets even". Once again I hope he was wrong! Wow, Is the lake ever low!

February meeting, nominating committee needs to be chosen, elections are in May and nominations are from the floor as well in April. Don't miss the meeting, you might get elected!

Memberships are coming in at a good pace, keep it up. The memberships will go towards supporting the summer youth program since the City has stopped all support. The cost of the program will be about \$9,000.00 this summer. The art fair raises about \$7,000.00, membership does the rest.

Anyone wanting to plant trees should be at the Feb. meeting as well.

The Minnesota Point Preservation Society continues to form and advance under the guidance of the Board of Directors and the special efforts of Tom Karas.

The Rummage sale is scheduled for June 8 – 9, and the Art Fair for the weekend of June 23, 24.

Remember, please no yard, rummage or garage sales during the Art Fair weekend.

Thanks,
Dick

Lafayette Rentals

Lafayette is a great place to hold weddings, reunions, parties, meetings, etc...

The Rental fees are as follows:

up to 50 people - \$100.00
50-100 people - \$200.00
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There is a Damage Deposit of \$100.00, which is refundable, after cleaning & inspection.

The hours available are from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm

Missy LePage is our rental agent. You can reach her by phone at 218-208-9545 or by e-mail at ppccdhlh@gmail.com



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218-727-1262

Holy Eucharist every Sunday: 9:45 am

To listen—in faith—to find one's way and have the feeling that, under God, one is really finding it again. This is like playing blindman's bluff: Deprived of sight, I have, in compensation, to sharpen all my other sense, to grope my way and recognize myself as I pass my fingers over the faces of friends, and thus find what was mine already and had been there all the time. What I would have known all the time was there, had I not blindfolded myself.

Dag Hammarskjöld

**We are a Community on the Way to
Knowing, Loving, and Serving God.
Come and See!**

**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
2002 Minnesota Ave
722-3078**

Fr. John Petrich,

Alive and Open!

We have worked hard in the Duluth area to form a Strategic Plan for Parishes and Pastors. The plan may and will be implemented as needed.

The need will come when we look at the availability of priests; this is tied to retirements, health, and future ordinations to the priesthood. As we read, Our Lake of Mercy is talked about to merge with St. Mary, Star of the Sea. That is a future idea, but NOT imminent! We will still keep our doors open and our Masses and prayers happening each week. Come and join us as we, together as a community, grow closer to God in faith.

We are not closing now – what the distant future brings, only God knows.

Fr. John

****Mass 8:00 every Sunday with confessions at
7:40 a.m.**

Is a Reverse Mortgage

something *you* should consider?



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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We're on Park Point, next to the public boat launch.

Park Point Community Club Minutes

January 19, 2012

January, 2012 monthly meeting of the Park Point Community Club was called to order at 7:00pm by club president Richard Gould.

There were no minutes to approve as we did not have a community club meeting in December.

Treasurer's Report

\$39,442	Beginning Balance 1/1/2012
\$10,000	Minnesota Point Preservation Society
\$28,180	Park Point Community Club
\$ 1,262	UBS checking account

Communication

Discussion about obtaining grant money to help run the Art Fair.

2012 Membership Drive on.

1939 Land Decree where land was given to the City of Duluth is available on the Park Point Community Club website.

S Curve update

Stones have been removed. Sign is back. City okay with project because the sign was rebuilt and not new. Approximate finished price - \$900.

Fire Hall

Report due out 2/2012 should describe what will happen to the Park Point Fire Hall.

Beach House

Speaker from YMCA asked for ideas about utilizing the beach house. Day camps & etc. Y does provide the lifeguards for the beach house. The Y is thinking of contacting the City of Duluth about managing the beach house this summer.

Motion was made by Diane Gould to support the YMCA endeavors to manage the beach house. Tom Rauschenfels seconded the motion.

Art Fair

Carla Tamburro said the Art Fair planning is in motion. Applications have started to come in.

Minnesota Point Preservation Society

Tom Kearns gave us an update as to the progress of writing by-laws. The Minnesota Point Preservation Society is geared up to preserve Lake Superior which includes Park Point and the entire watershed of Lake Superior. The MPPS will run as a separate organization and will provide education for the preservation of Lake Superior.

Diane Gould made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM.
Dennis Hoelscher seconded the motion.

**Park Point Community Club
Membership Form**

Name(s)_____

Address_____

E-Mail address_____

Number of Memberships_____ **X \$5.00=**_____

Please Mail Checks to:

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

Park Point.....Naturally

By Glenn Maxham

February---another lean month for admiring our wildlife, yet it's a month closer to the return of "our" warm weather birds. Even at this early date, the males are getting outfitted in their mating plumage but not yet ready to leave the comfort of wintering territories such as Costa Rica, Mexico and jungles of South America.

The goldeneye ducks never left us. A score or more of them claim the canal, as you may have noticed during a brief glimpse when crossing the bridge. Sometimes they share the open water with hardy bluebills.

As the day light extended beyond 5:00 o'clock toward the end of January, a lone crow from our resident flock let it be known that he was looking for a partner, doing so with a zany aerial display over the aspens between my apartment and Hearing Island. His flight path was confined to a vertical circle with a diameter of perhaps a hundred feet.

It began with a headlong dive from its highest point, leveled off just above the ground and shot upwards to the top of the loop and then launched another power dive to do it over again several times before landing exhausted on a limb. As far as I could tell there was no female admiring the crazy antics.

Crows, and their Canada jay relatives, are among the earliest to build a nest and start their families... so early they sometimes find snow briefly clinging to outer edges of the nest while incubating their eggs. If true to form, a pair will again take over a tall tree top on Hearing Island and raise three to five chicks ... the offspring making their persistent, annoying, non-musical, daylong call to be fed. Some of the brood from last year may stay around to help with that demanding job.

Excuse me while I digress to tell you about a bit of history that you may not have heard before: the Duluth-Superior harbor was, for a short time, divided in nearly equal parts by an earthen, human-made dike! I learned this years ago in an interview with the late Hubert Wheeler, grandson of pioneer Henry Wheeler.

According to Hubert, the dike was anchored at roughly 22nd and Minnesota Avenue on the Point with the west end on Superior's Conners Point. Henry, said Hubert, was among the men who decided a canal should be dug to allow boat traffic into and out of Duluth, not restricted to the Superior access.

Under the cover of darkness, and without legal permission to do so, they dug and dug until Lake Superior flowed into bay. There were some outraged citizens, including the man who owned the property that quickly dissolved in the deluge of lake water. In his anger, goes the story, he strung a rope across the opening in the faint hope boat traffic wouldn't cut through his land.

Superior, fearing silt would clog its harbor, demanded the dike be built. Henry, meantime, had to make an emergency trip with his tug to the Superior waterfront and didn't have time to go into the lake and enter via the nature-made Superior Entry. He nosed the bow of his tug into the dike wall and forced an opening.

I'm told that historical records at the Railroad Museum in the Depot reveal tentative plans to make the dike into a railroad bed and that Empire Builder J.J. Hill was among those interested in the prospect of laying the rails! Had this happened it's certain the character of the Point would have been totally reshaped...for better or for worse.

PS If anyone knows of still visible vestiges of the dike on the Point, please let me know.

News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

In addition to sharing a great meal and good company at the January 15 potluck dinner, Coral McDonnell, Carol Kondrath, Kristin Stuchis (coordinator of the Hillside Public Orchard), and Jennifer Cummings relived their travels and experiences during their recent visit to Cuba with the Witness for Peace delegation. They were very impressed with the variety of gardens in small places including roof gardens where people used whatever they could find for raised beds such as old bathtubs or large tank containers cut in half. Wood boards are hard to get so people are very innovative in reusing almost everything. Kristin will be leading another trip to Cuba in 2013. For more info, contact her at kstuchis@gmail.com.

Nothing Beats a Beet!

The Duluth Community Garden Program's One Vegetable One Community has named the lowly beet as the 2012 Vegetable of the Year. Our Lafayette Community Edible Garden members Pam Gustaveson and Cornelia Dacey have volunteered to serve on the Beet Ambassador committee, headed by Michael Gabler. Free starter kits with seeds, growing tips and project ideas will be available help everyone grow beets.

MN Seed Source

If you're looking for seeds that have half a chance of growing in our climate, check out Jordan Seeds (www.jordanseeds.com), in Woodbury, for a vast array of edibles. Third-generation vegetable growers who have been selling their seeds to the wholesale trade since 1979, the Jordan boys are ready to take retail orders.

Upcoming events:

February 19, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday potluck supper at Lafayette Community Center (upstairs). Our guest speaker, Peggy Dahlberg, the recently retired landscape supervisor at UMD, will do a tree pruning demonstration in the garden starting at 4pm. All Park Pointer are welcome at our monthly dinners; you don't have to be members of the community garden. For more information, contact Coral 727-6455.

February 29, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Depot Great Hall, The Art of Local Food fundraiser dinner for Duluth Community Garden Program. \$50 per person. For more information, call 218-722-4583.

March 18, 4 to 7 p.m. . Sunday potluck supper at Lafayette Community Center. Mozzarella-making demonstration.

April 15, 5 to 7 p.m... Sunday potluck supper at Lafayette Community.

Ongoing Gardening Classes: visit the Duluth Community Garden web site to see its calendar of classes offered: [www. DuluthCommunityGarden.org](http://www.DuluthCommunityGarden.org).



Witness for Peace delegates visited a community and school garden project in Puerto Esperanza, Cuba. Photo courtesy of Coral McDonnell

Editor's Corner

Could we really have escaped from January that easily? So little snow, barely a cold snap worth mentioning. I don't know about you, but it kind of makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck. You know winter's still out there, somewhere. And you know it's going to get us – sometime, somehow, we'll pay for this.

In the meantime, a reminder that the Park Point Community Club's annual membership drive continues. I've included another membership form on page 6 of this issue – just in case you lost yours last month. Remember, there's a good chance I'll be printing a membership list in a future issue. So if you want your name to appear there, among Park Point's finest citizens, get your five dollars in soon.

Next to this column you'll see a press release from a new organization, the Minnesota Point Preservation Society. As I wrote in an earlier column, this 501c-3 organization was originally planning to absorb the Park Point Community Club. But on reconsideration it was decided that it would be better if the two operated as separate, parallel organizations. The Park Point Community Club provided \$10,000 in seed money to get the MPPS started. This can be looked at as an investment, as the MPPS can seek grants and take on projects that the PPCC can't, and that would benefit not just Park Point but the whole community. They're now seeking applications for their board of directors. If this is something you might be interested in, I'd urge you to apply.

So, is anybody catching any fish out there on the bay? I can't seem to.

Minnesota Point Preservation Society Introduced

New Group Dedicated to Preservation Seeks Board of Director Applicants

Contact: Liz Mackay 218-722-1834
e-mail [-Mnpointpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:Mnpointpreservation@gmail.com)

After months of diligent preparation, the Minnesota Point Preservation Society is ready to conduct business and seat its initial board of directors. The MPPS was granted nonprofit status by the IRS and recognized by the State of Minnesota late last year. An interim board of directors has recently developed and adapted bylaws and policies for operations.

The Minnesota Point Preservation Society will operate as a separate entity from the Park Point Community Club. However seed funding was provided by the club as an investment to increase the advocacy tools for preserving the unique natural landscape and quality of life on Minnesota Point.

"It is not an overstatement that Minnesota Point be recognized as one of the most unique features of Lake Superior," stated Dr. Gale Kerns a long time Point resident. "It also is a story of rich human history that deserves to be preserved and communicated."

Over two million vehicles a year drive onto Minnesota Point as it serves a well connected residential community. Recreational use of city owned Park Point and adjoining hiking trails, summer youth camps, art fairs, and the famous Park Point Street Sale, combine to illustrate how Minnesota Point is truly a shared asset for all of the Twin Ports region.

Interim board member Joan Eastman explains that without Minnesota Point there would be no protected harbor that facilitated the economic growth of the Twin Ports. "And without Minnesota Point there would have been no need for the lift bridge, can anyone imagine this area without the iconic symbol of that wonderful bridge?"

The MPPS charter also includes the directive to be an educational conduit to all residents of the Lake Superior watershed. The Society seeks to provide an example of the valuable balance between guarding the resource but also sharing the resource with residents and visitors. The new group will be seeking to earn local financial support and pursue grant funding to help fulfill its mission from businesses, individuals, foundations and other organizations aligned with the goals of the MPPS.

Residents of the Twin Ports area who are interested in helping the cause of the MPPS and desire to serve as a member of the Board of Directors are strongly encouraged to request an application from the MPPS through their e-mail account:

Mnpointpreservation@Gmail.com. Over the next few months the final steps preparatory steps will be taken as a formal launch of the organization is set for July 1, 2012.

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: Community Police Officer Nick Lukovsky 730-5646. Nlukovsky@duluth.mn.gov. Parks Maintenance Division: 730-4491 (after hours 730-4150) Fire station #5 (Park Point): 723-3215 City Councilor Sharla Gardner: 724-4701 sharla.gardner@gmail.com



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