



# The Breeze

Of  
Park Point  
April 2006  
Vol.35 issue 4

## Calendar

**Park Point Community  
Club Meeting  
April 20, 7PM  
Lafayette Square**

**Buoys and Gulls Club  
Meeting  
May 2, 1 PM  
At Lafayette  
Bingo every Thursday  
11:00 AM  
Bring your lunch  
Coffee is served**

**Rummage Sale  
June 9 & 10**

**Art Fair  
June 24&25**

## Clearing The Boards



Ask Martha Juntunen when she began painting, and she'll tell you "As soon as I got out of jail". Hardly the picture of an ex-con, she smilingly explains. For 16 years, her husband Oscar served as Sheriff of Carlton County. In those days, the Sheriff, and his family, lived in the Carlton County Jail. Martha cooked, cleaned and did the laundry for the prisoners in the jail, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. At times Martha says she felt as much a prisoner as they were, and longed just for a day in the woods when she could paint. That opportunity came with a near tragedy, when Oscar was shot and wounded in the line of duty, losing much of the use of his right arm. Oscar recovered enough to finish his term in office, but concerns about his physical abilities led to him losing the next election, and Martha, Oscar and their two children moved out of the jail into a house in Esko. And Martha got her chance to paint.

Right from the start, Martha was a prolific painter, turning out her classic floral designs on whatever surfaces were available. She began selling her artwork not so much to make money as to make space for more works. Although she took some art classes at UMD, and a few around the community, Martha is largely self-taught, and is known not just for flowers – especially poppies – that she so often paints but also for the surfaces she paints on – weathered boards, driftwood paddles and oars, etc.

It was the Park Point Art Fair that brought Martha to the Point about 20  
(See **Boards**, Page 5)

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 May 5th for the May 2006 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: Dick Gould  
3003 Minnesota Ave  
727-4067

Vice President: Dave Poulin  
3101 S. Lake Ave.  
722-1511

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Chuck Flaig  
1511 Minnesota Ave.  
727-2814

## Committees

ART FAIR  
open

## CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Cliff Tchida, 722-4966

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

## HOSPITALITY

Diane Gould, 727-4067

## LAFAYETTE SQUARE RENTALS

Barb Greene 940-2613

## 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](http://parkpointcommunityclub.org)

## Officer on Duty

Hello, I am officer Tinsley of the Duluth Police Department. Calls for police service are expected to pick up in the coming months. The police department held a meeting with residents in October and identified some concerns of the community. On March 29<sup>th</sup> another meeting was held at Lafayette Square. We talked about how to better handle beach parties, traffic, and animal disturbances. We are planning another meeting for the summer months that will be held in the first week of June.

Some people have complained about parties on the beach and have offered some different solutions to the problem. If you live near an entry point to the beach and would like to set up a small watch group with your neighbors I would be happy to attend.

Here is a portion of the city ordinance pertaining to the city park.

### Sec. 35-9.3. Use of parks between certain hours prohibited without prior registration, exceptions.

Except as provided herein, no persons shall enter or remain in any public park or public recreation area, except Canal Park, between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. on any day.

The director of parks and recreation of the city is hereby authorized to close any public park or public recreation area between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight, or any part of such time period, by posting appropriate signs to such effect at such park or recreation area, and in such case, no person shall enter or remain in such park or recreation area during such hours.

The provisions of this Section shall not be applicable to any person while he is making use of any park or recreation area for fishing or boating purposes, or to any person while driving a vehicle on a park road for purposes of passing through such park, or to any person while a passenger in or on such a vehicle.

## PARK POINT GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH AND SAT. JUNE 10TH ARE THE DATES OF THE 2006 PARK POINT GARAGE SALE. IT IS A GREAT TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE HOUSE AND MAKE SOME EXTRA DOLLARS. INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU..... HAVE A FUN TIME SELLING!

WE ASK THAT YOU START PLANNING & SELL YOUR RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS ON GARAGE SALE WEEKEND AND NOT ART FAIR WEEKEND (JUNE 24 & 25). ARTISTS PAY A FEE. THE ART FAIR IS THE BIGGEST FUND RAISER FOR OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL: CHARLENE SHIMMIN  
722-6828

**OUR LADY OF MERCY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2004 Minnesota Ave

SUNDAY MASSES 9 AM

CONFESSIONS SUNDAY 8:30-8:45 AM

Coffee & Donuts 1st Sunday of the Month

**HAPPY EASTER**

**WE WELCOME YOU ALL**

Special Lecture Course At St. Scholastic  
"WHAT DO CATHOLICS THINK?"  
Call 723-6699 for more information

PASTOR: MSGR PATRICK MCDOWELL  
DEACONS: ROGER BIRKLAND  
TED WINDUS

OFFICE NO. 722-3078

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

2802 Minnesota Avenue  
standrewsbtl.org 727-1262

*Easter is hope on a rampage. The world comes alive with possibility.*

*An Easter Story*

*Once upon a time, some disciples begged their old and ailing Master not to die. "But if I do not go how will you ever see?" the Master said to them.*

*"But what is it we can possibly see when you are gone?"*

*With a twinkle in his eye, the Master answered, "All I ever did in my entire life was to sit by the river handing out river water. After I'm gone, I trust that you will notice the river."*

*On Easter Sunday, Divine Delight breaks through despair.*

Join us for worship! 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.  
Nursery available. Sunday School for children and youth.

# *BaySide Market*

**1901 Minnesota Ave 727-7635**

**Meat, Cheese and Veggie Trays**

**Great Deli and Sandwiches**

**Home Made Sausages  
Polish, Italian, Potato, Brats  
Onion & Garlic, Cheese Franks  
Breakfast Sausage and Jalapeno Brats**

**Winter Hours**

**Monday – Friday: 7 AM - 8 PM  
Saturday & Sunday: 8 AM – 7 PM**

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

A grimy electric clock on the back wall of the meeting hall said 7:05 when I strode into the room. They were all in their seats, twenty club members or more, and they turned their anxious faces towards me. I'd been brought in to "handle" a little problem they were having. Their secretary had turned up missing. Me? Let's just say I'm a temporary community club secretary.

President Dick Gould silenced the murmur with one glare from his steely eyes and the meeting was underway. The first order of business caught everyone by surprise. Duluth Police Officer Mike Tinsley was called to an emergency. Before he left, he made it clear he'd be back to Lafayette on the evening of March 29 for the next Community & Police Night, then he dropped his monthly stats report and split for zenith city. Nervous club members swapped glances. Without a copper in the room anything could happen. I patted the persuader I keep in my jacket pocket and hunched over my notepad.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved, but tension swept through the club when they looked for the treasurer. Likeable Chuck Flaig was missing! He'd been seen at an Executive Board meeting of the Club just a few nights ago, reporting that all Club finances were in great shape. Tonight there'd be no treasurer's report.

### **Committee Reports**

**Cookbooks:** Diane Gould reported that out of a total production of 1726 books, she had only 22 left. She has placed an order for 500 more, and expects brisk summer sales. To date, the cookbook has earned the Club over \$10,000. Continuing the saga of the lost -then cancelled - check to the City of Duluth Legacy Fund: Dick Gould spoke with fund administrators about Club concerns. They have addressed those concerns, therefore the Club will issue a new check to the City and the kidnappers will release Chuck.

**City Council Liaison:** Cliff Tchida said the Duluth City Council was starting to follow a familiar voting pattern of five vs. four, with ample squabbling; a Council tradition.

**Quality of Life:** Dennis Hoelscher had no report; the ex-cop clammed up like a wise guy.

**Parks & Rec:** Liz Mackay noted that the skating rinks would be closed soon, if they weren't already, all across the city. Also, nothing is currently in City plans for road reconstruction on Park Point. This led to a brief discussion about the lunar aspects of the potholes on Minnesota Avenue and the likelihood sewer mains are leaking underneath it. A general consensus held that we citizens need to campaign more to keep our cattle-trail high on the list of City road repair schedules; that "squeaky wheels get attention," and that all of our wheels squeak because of pothole damage. Jay Laundergan mentioned plaster cracks in his house due to truck traffic. The stretch of road he lives on, between the bridge and the S-curve, is by far the worst stretch on the Point.

**Breeze:** Alan Dartanyan has had advertisers contacting him, a great situation for the administration of any publication in the nation. Alan also asked us, "Please.... Send more stories to the Breeze."

**Environment:** Kinnan Stauber has ordered this year's spring planting stock of 1500 tree seedlings, using money approved by the Club last month. Planting will begin in May. Targeted areas are: the site of the next boardwalk by the public pavilions, around the perimeter of the S-curve parking lot, and bare patches in the Barrens.

**Art Fair:** Jake Kapsner announced jury selections have been made and the slate of artists chosen for this year's Art Fair. The jury work was done at Lafayette in early March. Art Fair committee members plan to walk around the fair site soon, to develop a layout that accommodates more artists. City contracts are falling into place. New features for the fair may include a "Make-n-Take" table for kids, staffed by college art students. A committee meeting is in the works for late March or early April. Please volunteer!

**President's Report:** Dick Gould began with good news about Lafayette. The City of Duluth is willing to let us take over more of the building's upkeep. Really, that's good. The first (but not only) example: The interior needs paint, and the City's color scheme is The interior needs paint, and the City's color scheme is most often described as "peculiar." Volunteers will now be allowed to do the painting. A

**(Continued on next page)**

### Minutes Continued

Lafayette Upkeep Weekend will be planned when the weather warms. Other public areas on the Point need upkeep, too. Boardwalks and fenced areas will need their simple annual repairs. New signs will be added to the walkways. For the S-curve (12th Street) project, Dick emphasized that most of the construction materials planned for the parking lot retaining wall are surplus from the City of Duluth.

**County Commissioner:** Dennis Fink fielded questions about road repair priorities as they are set by St. Louis County. He offered suggestions on ways Park Pointers might make themselves heard with the City and with civic organizations such as the Downtown Council. He again voiced his strong support for the S-curve project, and stressed that the county can often help find creative solutions to longtime problems.

Later, as a supplement to his report, Commissioner Fink spoke about the consolidation of some City and County tax-assessment responsibilities. This project is made necessary by the retirement of Duluth's assessor; it will reduce duplication and help the City until their new assessor arrives from Transylvania.

**Old Business:** Like an itch that can't be scratched, club discussion returned to the topic of road repairs, both on Park Point and through Canal Park. Captain Tom Mackay counted off six major flaws that could be easily corrected. Examples included fresh crosswalk paint by Bayside Market and a standard "No Left Turn" sign, southbound on Lake Avenue by Grandma's Marketplace. Capt. Tom expressed dissatisfaction with our City Councilor Russ Stewart, noting that complaining to each other about problems we all know about isn't solving anything. This led to the only motion of the night. **Motion:** Club officers shall draft a letter to City and Canal Park officials detailing the listed traffic concerns and urging their correction. Motion carried.

Charlene Shimmin formally agreed to manage the Park Point Rummage Sale. **This year's rummage sale will be held on Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10.** Charlene added she'd appreciate another volunteer to assist her.

Last month's intense discussion about the duplex construction planned for 3129 Minnesota Avenue seems to have had an impact on its design. The Duluth City Council reversed their opinion and retracted their approval for some requested variances.

President Dick Gould reminded everyone that the Community Club membership drive is ongoing, and that Club elections are coming in May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05. Neither President Gould nor Vice-President Dave Poulin will be in town for the April club meeting. According to by-laws, the meeting shall be conducted by the club secretary. That's where I come in. I'm a temporary Community Club secretary. That's not just what I do. It's who I am.

Respectably Subcontinent.... Dave Johnson

### Boards (from page 1)

Years ago. Driving down Minnesota Avenue on the way to the Fair they noticed a house for sale. Martha wanted to stop and look at it, which they did. Well, they never did make it to the Art Fair that day. And within two hours, she and Oscar had made an offer on the house

That began the Park Point institution of Martha's Boards, as Martha collected driftwood from the beach and continued her painting, and the garage at 3315 Minnesota was transformed into a virtual art gallery. Park Point neighbors and visitors became accustomed to the sight of that open garage door spilling artwork out into the drive, often with Martha painting or Oscar sitting in a lawn chair. And there are few Park Point homes that aren't adorned with at least one of Martha's Boards. (I believe we have 3)

It's been three years now since Oscar passed away, and at 89, Martha is slowing down. It's time, she says, to clear out the garage. Despite the sales, over the years she has built up a huge inventory, hundreds, perhaps thousands of pieces in all sizes and colors. If she could, she says, she sell them all in one lot. In the meantime, she's got them all on sale (see the ad elsewhere in this issue) and will try to move out as many as she can. She notes a slight shaking in her hands and says it's probably time to give up painting, but I noticed a bit of reluctance there. After all these years, there are still a few flowers left in those old hands.

## **2006 PARK POINT ART FAIR**

A jury of three art professionals met in late March to select the 110+ artists who will participate in the 2006 show. The applicants were all strong candidates and the final choices represent excellent, high quality work in all categories: jewelry, ceramics, fiber, 2-D, wood, glass, photography and mixed media. About 1/3 of the accepted artists are repeat applicants, while another 2/3 are new to the show.

We have a special treat for fair-goers this year. Triarco, a Minnesota art supply company, has donated many supplies for a make-and-take family fun area. In addition, it looks like we may have some low-key music to entertain visitors as they partake in delicacies provided by a handful of fine vendors. These food vendors will include the old stand-bys, such as mini-donuts and kettle corn, with a new mix of flavors such as Cajun fare and a variety of Greek treats.

Given these exciting additions to the fair, we're looking for ways to spread the word, and are exploring ways to increase advertising and perhaps buy a banner to display on a downtown Duluth skywalk. The preparations for the fair will really take off in May and art fair volunteers will be needed to perform tasks such as hang posters, help arrange the artist dinner and many other things that make the art fair the successful. Of course, volunteers are needed on the days of the fair, June 24 and 25, to help set-up, clean up, greet visitors and sit at the make-and-take table! If you wish to be added to the volunteer list, please call Carla at 727-2661. If you wish to be part of final decision-making and planning, attend the committee meeting (tentatively) scheduled for May 2 at 7p.m. at 2810 Minnesota Ave. Please call if you can attend.

We are hoping to get outstanding attendance from Park Pointers this year. If you haven't been to the fair in a few years this would be the year to come back. Remember: this event raises funds that the Park Point Community Club uses to support youth activities and environmental projects on <sup>3</sup>The Point.<sup>2</sup> Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve you by bringing the arts to our community.

Your arts advocate and committed community member,  
Carla Tamburro  
PPAF Coordinator

## **Duluth Boat Club: Still Chugging Along**

With all the recent publicity about sports facilities in Duluth – The DECC expansion, the Hockey – no, Sports Heritage Center, and of course the Kroc Center, it got me thinking about a much older project, the Duluth Boat Club facility planned for the bay at about 14<sup>th</sup> Street. So I called Keith Stauber for an up-date. He told me the project continues to be held up by the permits and paperwork required to get utilities delivered to the site. It seems as if as each new project comes along, it jumps to the head of the line, and the Boat Club gets pushed back. It just never seems to reach priority status. Keith remains confident that the deal will get done; once it works it's way through the bureaucracy. When asked about a construction date, Keith replied, "I thought we'd have a building up two years ago". Proposals had been made to lay a slab for a building now; before utilities are available, but that was put on hold, for fear that changes in the plans required at any step of the permitting process might result in it being wasted money. Fencing at the site was also proposed, but this is also on hold until a building is up. So until all the paperwork is done, the site will sit empty.

In the meantime, the Boat Club exists only of a board made up of representatives of participating organizations (the Rowing Club, the Yacht Club, The Sailing Association, etc). It will continue to hold fundraising events, such as running the on the water activities at the Dragon Boat Festival this summer, and is considering hiring a consultant to study how best to coordinate the activities of the various participating organizations, both for fundraising and shared operations once a building is up. But when that will be is anyone's guess.

### **Editor's Corner**

Just some random thoughts:

\* Sometimes the things I do for the Breeze seem like work. Other times....I can't tell you how much I enjoyed interviewing Martha Juntunen for this issue.

\* It was good to see Ralph Doty's comments in the Budgeteer on the condition of Minnesota Avenue. As he states, "For a roadway that's heavily used by tourists we're trying to impress, it's a failure". Maybe it will help get a little attention down here, if they know it's not just us locals whining about it.

\* I'm usually kind of leery of all the condominium developments springing up around the city, but I must admit I didn't mind seeing those duplexes come down on Lake Avenue South. They were....kind of ugly! Happy Spring!

### **Birds vs. Windows**

When I returned to Duluth over 20 years ago, I moved to the Point, in part because it is a major migratory route for birds. I, like many others, enjoy watching this quiet spectacle every spring and fall. Unfortunately, perching our houses on their flyways presents challenges for the birds. The population of songbirds is showing some very alarming downward trends. Some of the leading causes for this fact are habitat loss, predation by domestic cats, and birds flying into obstructions (buildings and towers at night) and windows. Most of us have been saddened and perhaps felt twinges of guilt when we find a dead bird outside one of our windows. As we live on such an important migratory pathway, I have often wondered just how much damage to we cause, and can we do anything to mitigate these losses? The first step is to try to get a handle on the problem, if indeed there is one. I recently contacted one of the leading local bird experts at UMD, and he found interest in this question among some of the graduate and undergraduate students at UMD. We will likely come up with a study plan in the near future, as the spring migration will be upon us soon. I am hoping on getting some community support for this project (don't worry, not financial). It would take a number of households to collect any birds dying at your windows and putting them in a little bag with the date of death, and then putting them in your freezer. Periodically we would collect them so you don't end up putting them in your next stew. This is purely an information-gathering project. It will place no obligation on those who choose to help out, other than a little freezer space and checking outside your windows daily. My suspicion is that those of us with big windows facing the Lake may be posing the greatest hazard. I may be contacting some of you over the next month or so, looking for volunteers. This is a "heads up", so if you find me at your door you won't think I'm a complete nut case. You can decide that later. Call us if your have questions or if you have some of those big windows and would like to help. Thanks!

Scott Wolff  
722-3388









