

The Breeze

Of
Park Point

February 2007

Vol.36 issue 2

Calendar

**Park Point Community
Club Meeting**
February 15th, 7PM
At Lafayette
Pizza at 6:30!

**Buoys and Gulls Club
Meeting**
Tuesday, March 6th
1PM at Lafayette
**Bingo every Thursday
11:00 AM**
Bring your lunch
Coffee is served

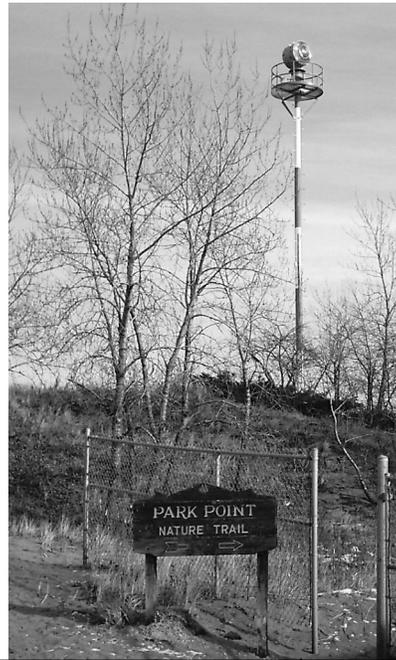
Park Point Rummage Sale
June 8th & 9th

Grandma's Marathon
June 16th

Park Point Art Fair
June 23rd & 24th

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



Airport light above the entrance to the Park Point Nature trail

Uneasy Neighbors: Airport and Pine Forest

With the Sky Harbor Airport once again at the center of a controversy involving the cutting of both old- and young-growth forest, issues concerning recreational use, public safety, land stewardship and public vs. private rights of way have re-emerged for debate among Park Pointers and citizens throughout the State of Minnesota. A review of some of the history surrounding the establishment and use of the Park Point Recreation Area will make clear the fact that controversy with regard to this area has extended over more than half a century. It would seem to be an appropriate point of departure for discussion:

1935 - A park, extending from the "swamp" adjacent to 43rd St. and extending to the lighthouse ruins is first proposed.

1936 - WPA begins work on the Beach House and a narrow-gauge railway within the park.

1939 - State of Minnesota, for a fee of \$1.00, conveys to the City land now known as the Minnesota Point Recreation Area (including the Pine Forest) "upon the condition that the City of Duluth shall use said land for purposes of public recreation and public health and that facilities provided on said land shall be OPEN UPON EQUAL TERMS TO ALL PERSONS, WHETHER RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF DULUTH OR ELSEWHERE, AND JOINT TITLE TO SAID LAND SHALL REVERT TO THE STATE AND THE STATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TAKE POSSESSION THEREOF UPON BREACH OF THE AFORESAID CONDITIONS." The law is passed in 1939 and recorded as Public Record the following spring.

1946 - Transfer of the existing seaplane base, established during WWII, to parkland by City of Duluth. Three separate sites are considered: 1) 16th St. on the bay 2) Hearing Island and 3) the "barrens" south of the Recreation Center. The Minnesota Aeronautics Board and the Aeronautics Authority vote favorably for the 16th St. site.

(continued on page 4)

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is March 2nd for the March 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

Park Point community Club

Annual Membership meeting

Pizza! Pizza! Pizza!

Bring your membership form and \$3 annual dues (if you haven't already sent it in) to the Park Point Community Club meeting on February 15th at Lafayette Square and enjoy pizza, soft drinks, and a bit of neighborly socializing. Membership forms went out in the January issue of the Breeze, but will also be available at the meeting.

Pizza and social half-hour at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00PM

Membership in the Park Point community Club is open to all Park Point residents 18 years and older. Come join us.

CALL FOR ARTISTS TO ENTER 37th ANNUAL PARK POINT ART FAIR

Applications due March 7, 2007

DULUTH, Minn. (Jan. 19, 2007) -- Artists are invited to apply for entry into the 37th annual Park Point Art Fair, which features 115 visual artists exhibiting and selling their work June 23 and 24, 2007 at the Park Point Recreation Area in Duluth, Minn. Applications are due (postmarked) March 7.

This is a juried art fair of original, handmade work in clay, jewelry, glass, fiber, sculpture, photography, wood, painting, leather, 2D & 3D mixed media. Not accepted: kits, patterns, buy/sell or country crafts. Applicants submit four slides or electronic samples (jpeg) representing the work they will show and sell. A jury of three art professionals will judge the slides based on craftsmanship and originality. The highest scores in each category are then selected to attend the two-day event, where more than \$1,000 in cash awards, including a \$300 Best of Show, are bestowed upon artists.

In 2006, 115 artists were selected from a pool of local, regional and national applicants. The free event attracted an estimated 8,000 - 10,000 visitors for its fine arts and crafts, food court, live music, interactive arts for children, storytelling, juggling and more.

The Park Point Art Fair is presented by the Park Point Community Club, a volunteer citizen group that uses art fair proceeds to support local youth activities, environmental projects such as tree plantings and dune preservation, and other community-minded efforts.

For an application, more information and a complete list of 2006 artists, visit www.parkpointcommunityclub.org. Or, contact coordinator Carla Tamburro at carlajake@clearwire.net or 218-428-1916. Mailing address: Park Point Art Fair 2007, P.O. Box 16326 Duluth, MN 55816-0326

37th PARK POINT ART FAIR, at a glance:

10am - 5pm June 23 and 24, 2007, Park Point Recreation Area, Duluth, MN.

115 artists in variety of media, food, live music, children's activities.

Artist applications due March 7, 2007; online at

www.parkpointcommunityclub.org.

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standrewsbtl.org 727-1262

A Quiet Space in Lent

On February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th (all Saturdays), the church will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There is no specific program. The church space is being offered for you to take time for yourself. Our lives are busy and this might be an opportunity to sit in the quiet, be still, renew and refresh your soul. Feel free to stop in if you are a runner, walker, or just passing by. Treat yourself to a few minutes of silence, or as long as two hours of quiet solitude. Coffee and Tea will be available in the Mission Hall.

"Silence is that place just before the voice of God. It is the void in which God and I meet in the center of my soul."

Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

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(Uneasy Neighbors, from Page 1)

- 1950** - The Community Club Executive Board expresses its concern over the building of a landing strip, noting that it "will destroy the only stand of virgin timber left in this area."
- 1952** - PPCC minutes record the following airport-related items: "Club highly critical of airport landing strip construction at Sky Harbor seaplane base; concerns include possible lowering of property values, potential hazards, bothersome aircraft noise. Club uses secret ballot to vote on landing strip; 49 for, 115 against." "State Aeronautics Commissioner says plans for landing strip will definitely be abandoned if residents continue objecting."
- 1952** - Federal Civil Aeronautics Administration withdraws its recommendation for investment in Federal funds for a landing strip. District Airport Engineer for the FCAA says residents' opposition serves to indicate that investment would result "only in bringing discredit to the Federal Government."
- 1955** - The PPCC writes to the City Council regarding cross-strip construction at airport, noting that "this construction is contrary to plans originally presented; construction would cut into wind and wave barrier that was built during Recreation Center development to halt any erosion that could bisect the Point."
- 1956** - Club notes its opposition to a barbed wire fence around the airport placed on land leased from the Parks Department.
- 1969** - Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) is created. State law attempts to define and clarify land use, stewardship and management authority over the Recreation Area of various parties, including the DNR, DAA and City of Duluth.
- 1980's - 1990's** - DAA engages in a variety of capital projects, including paved taxiways, hangar construction, light pole installation and navigational instrumentation.
- 1997** - Through the efforts of the late Willard Munger, State of Minnesota passes the Minnesota Point Conservation Act, reinforcing protections not only of the Recreation Area, but extending the length of the sand spit commonly known as Park Point.
- 1999** - Minnesota Point Environmental Management Plan makes the following claim: "Primary Threat to the Minnesota Point Pine Forest (is the) Expansion of Sky Harbor Airport, either by intent or through compliance with inappropriate regulations," and "remains the chief concern for this compelling site."
- 2002** - Approximately 118 acres south of the barrens are designated a State of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area. As such, it is reserved as "a Public Use unit, open to the public for nature observation and educational and research activities."
- 2002** - PPCC, Duluth Airport Authority, state-wide conservation groups and individual private parties embroiled in an extended controversy surrounding the placement of a barrier fence planned to run through the center of the Pine Forest. Various parties meet in an effort to arrive at a suitable compromise that will ensure safety while mitigating the damage done to old growth pines. Areas of controversy include land ownership/stewardship, management authority and adherence to prior agreements and public law.
- 2003** - URS Planning and Urban Design Group (Minneapolis) completes its Park Point Urban Impact Study. This study is later adapted (2006) to comprise the Park Point portion of City of Duluth's Comprehensive Plan. In addition to the language below, the plan reviews and summarizes each of the sources listed at the end of this article. Language specific to the Pine Forest includes the following: "Minnesota Point Pine Forest Area. This old growth red and white pine forest was given special protection through the Minnesota Point Protection Act of 1997 and was declared a state Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) in 2002. The area contains approximately 118 acres, with 19 acres actually owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources."

SOURCES:

1. Public Document #599327 - Recorded April 14, 1940
 2. Minnesota Point Time Line (1999) - Janet E. Olson, ed.
 3. Park Point Urban Impact Study - URS Planning Group, Ltd.
 4. Minnesota Point Environmental Management Plan (1999)
 5. Position Statement on Proprietorship of Park Land on Minnesota Point [PPCC on the request of DAA, 2002]
 6. Minutes of The Park Point Breeze
- (Compiled by Ellen Dunlap)

Park Point Community Club January 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Old friends, familiar faces and cheery neighbors greeted each other as they gathered for the first Club meeting in two months. Banter and banana bread are a sociable combination; Dave Poulin tolerated it until 7:04, then brought the gavel down with a bang. The January meeting was underway! His first task was a sordid one; he read aloud an anonymous letter complaining about the Club secretary's idiocy. This was met with spontaneous laughter, in itself a dangerous thing. Insulted, the secretary proved his dexterity by patting his head and rubbing his tummy at the same time. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Local accountant Peggy Williamson has agreed to audit the Club books for the Club's annual financial report... Chuck Flaig distributed his profit & loss summary for 2006; currently the Club holds \$40,877.89.... Membership dues money is arriving already.

Lafayette: A big thank-you to Mike Gaidis! Mike took time to clean up and re-carpet the dais at the front of the meeting hall. It's a fine improvement and a classy detail, and it fits the new look of Lafayette very well.... Dick Gould offered to go blinds shopping with Barb Greene. This means they will be buying window shades, not shopping with their eyes closed.

Police: Officer Mike Tinsley had some good news for the Club. It began with the distribution of his 2006 police report summary. There were no burglaries reported to police from Park Point last year. (Burglars know from the Rummage Sale we have nothing worth stealing).... Officer Mike's territory stretches from Second Street up on the hill all the way to the end of the Point. He'll have some help this summer, and will be able to spend more time down here.... The new police chief, Gordon Ramsey, is no stranger to Park Point and the issues facing our community; he's been to many club meetings and has been Officer Mike's superior for quite awhile.... Park Point's neighborhood crime watch didn't really pan out; such is the cost of being dull. It has been replaced with plain ol' neighbor-watching, which is much more titillating.... If you want to see Duluth in an entirely new light, talk to Mike about going with him for a ride-along.... The sad plight of a neglected dog here on the Point was discussed; Mike understands the frustration of neighbors, but the situation may not be legally actionable at this time.

Correspondence: The Club received a note of thanks from organizers of the annual CHUM Christmas party for our longtime support. The club contributed \$200 for this year's event.... **Thank you to Diane Johnson!** She made a financial contribution to the Community Club; at her request it will be used for dune restoration work.... A memorial donation has been made to the Club from the family of the late Evelyn Maynard. Following that announcement, stories about Evelyn stopped the meeting for awhile.... Annamarie Luesmann spoke briefly to reinforce a letter she'd written to the Club concerning the Damiano Center. She volunteers for the soup kitchen there. The Damiano could use more volunteers, and needs help with repairs to their parking lot.

Club: Diane Gould needs someone else to make coffee ahead of the next meeting.... February is the annual club membership drive. This led to a discussion about whether a spaghetti dinner would be in order. Dick Gould thought he still had leftovers from two years ago. As part of the general talk, the topic of club officers came up. Dave Poulin's temporary position as Club President has stretched a full term already. Before that fact sank in and depressed him, the Club gently moved Dave on to other committee reports.

Art Fair: Carla Tamburro gave an update on progress for the 2007 Art Fair. One major change has been an increase of our online presence. More information about the Fair is available to artists considering the show as a venue, and they can now file their applications electronically.

Ice Rinks: Our dry winter has left the Lafayette rinks and winter recreation program in limbo. The City of Duluth will not be hiring an attendant for the Lafayette lower level; Dave Poulin will try to turn the big lights on and off each evening. Volunteers are needed, but there's a problem: A permanent, scheduled volunteer would need to pass a state background check, or two adults must volunteer together. Due to the

(Continued on next page)

(minutes, continued)

balmy December, the hockey rink was never flooded (but at least the trees are out of it!). A short discussion followed about the Club's liability risks; if you go skating, try not to fall.

Environmental: Sky Harbor Airport wants to cut more tall trees out of the Minnesota Point Pine Forest, install a fifth warning pole past the Pine Knot cabin and top many of the old-growth pines. This became the heated topic of the night; opinions voiced by Club members were resoundingly against any further airport expansion. This has long been a point of controversy between the Club and the Duluth Airport Authority. Survey stakes will be put up soon. Club volunteers will be able to judge the scale of the airport's proposal; at a December 5 meeting, airport officials minimized the potential environmental impact. **Motion:** That the Park Point Community Club immediately publicize its intent to halt the Duluth Airport Authority from cutting timber in the Minnesota Point Pine Forest. **Motion Carried.** This shall first take the form of a letter or press release for widespread distribution. The Club needs to investigate the DAA's long-range plans for the Sky Harbor runway and airport. **Motion:** The Park Point Community Club authorizes the Club Executive Board to hire an attorney to: "investigate, file an injunction or take other necessary and appropriate actions to stop the de-forestation of the Minnesota Point Pine Forest." **Motion carried.**

Breeze: Publisher, editor and noted raconteur Alan Dartanyan is looking for a volunteer Breeze delivery person, for the 10th - 12th Street neighborhood.

Other Business: Cap'n Tom Mackay spoke briefly about the "fix-up list" he and Dennis Hoelscher had assembled in 2005. The list concerned potential traffic hazards through the Canal Park area; they had given the list to the Canal Park Business Association. Tom announced cheerily that the list "has really been reduced".... A bit of correspondence came up for discussion: Does the Club support a smoke-free St. Louis County? No action was taken.... For the past year, occasional community club meetings have had a social time in advance of the meeting. The February meeting will be part of the membership drive; club members discussed doing "a little something extra" beforehand.

Jan Olson brought up another topic from the Minnesota Point environment. She had introduced herself to a representative of the Corps of Engineers, who was taking pictures of the "geo-tubes" erosion area close by the Superior Entry. The big beach-bags haven't worked out; also at the site, remnants of snow fencing is more man-made clutter.

Without warning the meeting adjourned, catching everyone inside by surprise. Club members sprang nimbly out the doors before anyone could retract the adjournment, and in minutes, the only people left in the room were the idiot secretary, arguing over a game of Scrabble with that other joker, the sign-boy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Johnson, Idiot Secretary

Park Point Rummage Sale

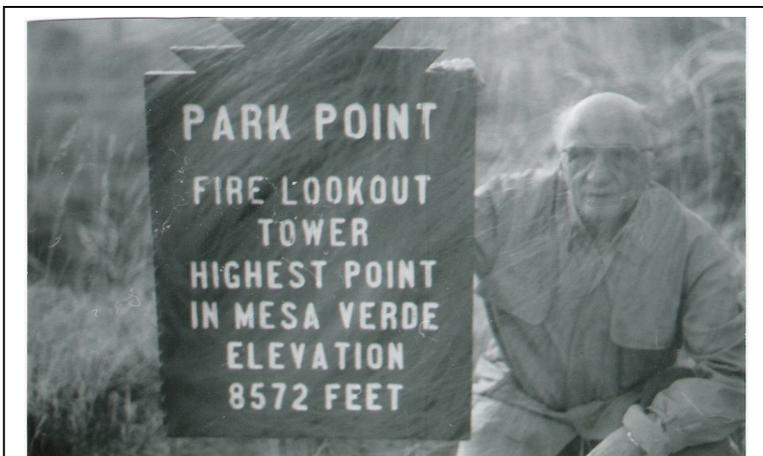
Friday June 8th & Saturday June 9th

Hope everyone is beginning to get STUFF ready for the Big 4 Mile Garage Sale. If you are finding unusual items that you will be selling please call and let me know so maybe we can mention them in the news releases. Last year two dog sleds were sold to someone who was very excited to receive them.

Did you know that shoppers come from as far as 100 – 150 miles away just to buy our great STUFF? It is interesting to talk to shoppers and find out where they are from and how they find out about the sale. Some just know when to come and some see the news releases that our sent to many of the communities in the area

Always looking for suggestions and willing to answer your questions about the sale.

Charlene Shimmin, chairperson 722-6828



Park Pointer Warren Howe sent us this picture from a trip taken last spring. Spotting the sign, he said they simply “couldn’t resist) stopping to take this photo.



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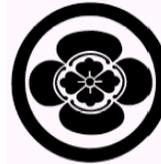
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Yoga and Tai Chi at Lafayette

Classes begin March 5

Beginning Yoga – Mondays, 7-8PM

Tai Chi – Wednesday 7-8PM

6 – class card - \$30.00

To register, contact Gay Hooper

722 - 2357

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Editor's Corner

This is one of those months when I feel I could write three separate columns on subjects of interest to Park Pointers, when I barely have room for one.

The first, of course, is the controversial proposed cutting in the pine forest to accommodate Sky Harbor Airport. But this issue is far bigger than Park Point, or even Duluth. Besides the background article in this month's Breeze, the issue has been covered in the daily newspaper, on radio and TV. I'll leave comments to more knowledgeable people.

Next is the Park Point community Club's membership drive and February membership meeting. I'll cover that in a single word: PIZZA!

That leaves the skating rink at Lafayette. After battling warm weather through December and half of January, the city finally managed to flood the pleasure rink, and give us a pretty good ice surface. However, they lack the money and manpower to staff the warming house as they have in past years. Once again we went looking for volunteers, and this time a few stepped up. I'd like to thank Peg Laforge and Keith Brakke, Dennis and Lori Thompson, my wife Cheryl, (whom I "volunteered") and especially Dave Poulan, who turns the lights on most every night. Right now hours are limited, but **the warming house is open 2-5PM Saturdays and Sundays, and Fridays 4-8PM.** Weather permitting, of course.

Bay Skate

I billed it as a skating party on the biggest sheet of ice around. The bay had gone through several transformations in the last months. Frozen, thawing, frozen-sort of, blown ice in piles along the shore with open water behind, open water with ducks, big winds from the south, huge waves from the north. This winter's weather assortment certainly fell within the category of global warming. It completely confused me and should have raised question marks in the heads of water birds.

I had already skated at Lafayette a few weeks before, knowing that if I fell through the ice there I'd end up floundering only in gravel and sand. I'd also skated up the Nemadji River, getting on the ice from a spot well up from the mouth. Accompanied by my faithful dog, Piney, I skated several miles on a smooth surface. That trip garnered me some photos of bobcat tracks.

I finally ventured onto the bay ice across the street from my home after spotting wind surfers, fishermen, and one tentative walker. It was a warmish day in mid-January. It took me a few moments to realize the ice was at least eight inches thick. Lots of it had been formed around huge chunks that had floated over during one of those south wind days. Not only was the ice safe for skating, it was a sculptured masterpiece.

I sat on an exposed rock and changed into my blades, then headed out. The biggest trick was getting beyond the strip of rubbly ice that bordered the shoreline. Luckily my ankles held out. After a precarious twenty foot trek, I found myself on a frozen super highway.

A trace of snow patterned the surface. There wasn't much to slow me down. Occasionally a ridge or some frozen chunks made a barrier that had to be traversed. But I made swift progress down the bay to Southworth Marsh, then back up the bay nearly to Hearing Island. I never stopped smiling.

That weekend a few folks came out that had been alerted to the "Holiday on Ice" conditions. A bit of snow had fallen since my initial skate. The route I had taken earlier was slightly more difficult because of packed snow here and there. Waiting on the ice was Dave Johnson. As we chatted about conditions, we saw two coyotes far out near the shipping channel. We were ecstatic. Definitely it was safe out there. Come to find out the Will Steger of bay skating, the great adventurer into the unknown, the man with two large spikes in his pocket for extricating himself from a plunge through thin ice - Dave - had already made a trip clear across the bay to Superior! There was nothing to stop my friend Kathy and me now. We just followed Dave across on his original route.

Wow. There is no word better to describe that trip. We thrilled at flying across yards of nature-made ice. We stopped and marveled at the exquisite designs beneath us. We were awestruck by a series of ice bubbles created by some mystery in the water below. This phenomenon was particularly noticeable in the channel. Jack Frost patterns revealed themselves on the ice surface. Cracks of all sizes divided areas into thousand piece jigsaw puzzles.

A few hours later, acknowledging our toes were numb, Kathy and I wandered back to where we'd left out boots. Dave skated off into the sunset. The last time we saw him he was making his way along the side of a laker moored near the port terminal, no doubt being followed by the coyotes, just two more adventurers on a trek with the pied piper of Park Point ice.

Jan Olson

The Breeze

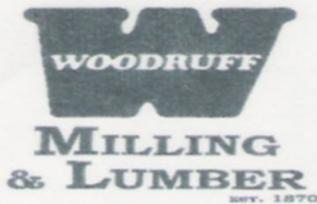
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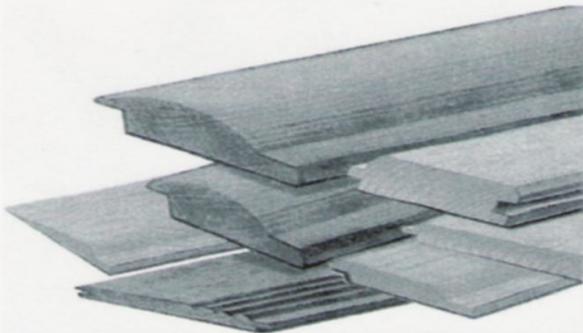
Park Point Resident

Parks Maintenance Numbers

If you see a problem such as overflowing trash cans or porta-potties, or any issue concerning our park facilities, you can contact the Parks Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department at 723-3425, Monday thru Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM. Weekends and after hours call 723-3333



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