

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 36 issue 111

November 2007

Calendar

Park Point Community Club Meeting
November 15, 7Pm
at Lafayette

Buoys & Gulls Mtg
December 4, Tuesday
Christmas Luncheon
Porters Restaraunt
Call for details &
reservations
Elaine Edwardson @279-3955

Bingo Thursday @ 11AM
Estates Bldg @1902 St
Louis Ave

What's our Sign?

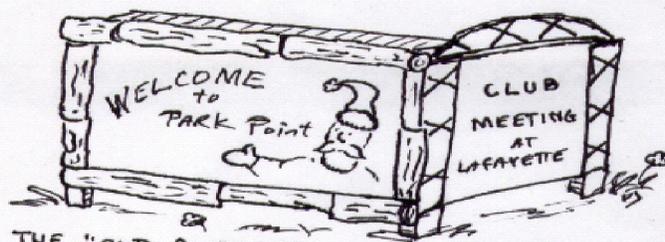
The sign at the S-curve is both our welcome to visitors and our means of communication (as well as the source of many chuckles and a few scratched heads). And it is quite literally falling down. A new sign was part of our once grand 12th street beach makeover, and we contacted the sign company that contracts with the city about getting a new one. They came back with a design best described as a \$30,000 monstrosity, not only far out of our price range, but not in keeping with our community's character.

So our "sign guru" Dave Johnson came up with a typical Park Point solution. We could rebuild it ourselves, replacing the rotted posts with treated lumber, and adding a few local touches. His proposed design is seen below.

The "Welcome to Park Point" side would be outlined in cedar logs, and featuring seasonally changeable scenes behind a Plexiglas cover. On the message board side, the board would be surrounded by a wooden silhouette of the Aerial Lift Bridge. The cost would be relatively low, especially if we can get local artists to paint the seasons scenes. The biggest expense would be Plexiglas covers and a new message board. It could largely be built inside over the winter and erected in the spring. So what do you think? Come to the November meeting and offer your opinions on Dave's idea (if not his artwork).

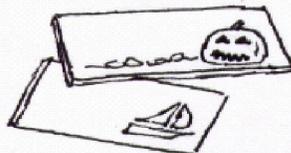
The mission of the Breeze is to serve the community by:

- 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

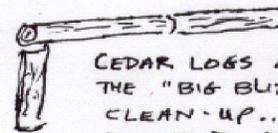
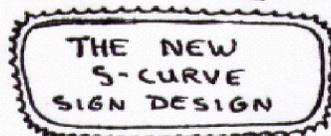


THE "OLD POSTCARD" SIDE HAS CHANGEABLE PANELS, CEDAR LOG "PICTURE FRAME"...

THE "BRIDGE" SIDE RESEMBLES EVERYONE'S FAVORITE TRAFFIC DELAY!



SEASONAL PANELS ARE PAINTED BY LOCAL ARTISTS!



CEDAR LOGS ARE FROM THE "BIG BLIZZARD" CLEAN-UP.... THEY MIGHT BE YOUR TREES!

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is November 30th for the December 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
722-9764

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

Who'll Staff The Rink?

Last year, it wasn't until just before the skating season began that the city informed us that they wouldn't be hiring anyone to staff the warming house at Lafayette. A number of Park Pointers volunteered to open it on a part time basis, but it was rather scatter shot. We were never able to establish or advertise regular hours, and that, plus the crazy weather, kept the use of the rink down.

Kathy Bergen, of Parks and Rec., informed me that the main reason for not staffing Lafayette, and a number of other rinks, was not budgetary concerns, but difficulties in finding qualified people willing to work the odd, part-time, weather dependant hours.

While those difficulties remain this year, added to that is a true budgetary crisis, effecting not just Parks Programs, but Parks Maintenance as well. These are the guys who flood the rinks, and clear the snow off them as well. And they're being asked to make do with less than half the staff they had last year.

With 18 skating rinks to maintain, the city is being forced to set some priorities. It has been proposed that they set up 3 "tiers" of rinks. The first tier – and there would be at least one in every section of the city – would be the first ones flooded, plowed, and staffed. The second tier would still be flooded by the city, but might have to wait awhile before being cleared, and probably not staffed for as many hours. The third tier would use community volunteers for staffing, and possibly for flooding and clearing the rinks as well. As I write this, it has not yet been decided what tier Lafayette will fall into, but making "first tier" seems unlikely.

I've asked Ms. Bergen to come to our next Park Point Community Club meeting, on November 15th. By then the decisions will have been made, and she should be able to tell us what we're looking at for Lafayette. So now I'm asking all Park Pointers, Club members or not, who are interested in the skating rink, to come to the November meeting as well. Do you have a few hours in the afternoon, evening, or on weekends, that you'd consider volunteering at Lafayette? Do you have kids you use the rink, or do you yourself? Do you just think it's important to have the rink and warming house available for those who do? Come to Lafayette on November 15th, 7PM, and help decide the fate of the rink.

BRIDGED: A COLLABERATION OF RECIPES FROM THE PARK POINT COMMUNITY

As the holidays approach and you need a gift, remember that Diane Gould, 727-4067, has a few cookbooks left. You can also purchase them at The Blue Heron Trading Co. and Barnes & Noble Bookstores.

Get a piece of history!

**A copy of "Bridged" was included in the City of Duluth
Time capsule, buried on November 2nd, 2007**

To be opened 50 years in the future.

And the recipes will still be good!

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC
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Sunday Mass 9 AM

Donut Sunday first Sunday of each month

WE WELCOME EVERYONE

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Wind

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For times: call Parish Office 722-3078

TURKEY BINGO NOVEMBER 18
1: 30 PM
at St. Mary's Star of the Sea

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2802 Minnesota Avenue
727-1262
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WELCOME! Worship begins at 9:45 am on
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Nursery care available. Christian Formation
for 3 year olds through senior high. Adult
education classes offered at various times.

This community finds its window to God in
the face of Jesus while affirming the quest and
insight of other faiths.

THIS MONTH AT ST. ANDREW'S
Bible Study (11 am) November 7 and 14
Bible Study (7 pm) November 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6
Men's Group November 6 and 20, Dec. 4 and 18
(Jitters, 6:45 am)
Service and Lunch for Bayshore Residents -
November 9 (11 am)
Progressive Dinner November 9 (6 pm)
Book Discussion (Three Cups of Tea) - Nov. 19
(7 pm) Dec. 2 (11:15 am)
St. Andrew's Day Celebration November 30,
5:45 pm (worship, dinner, talent show)



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- **Beverages**
- **Ice**
- **Newspapers**
- **Film**
- **Coffee**
- **ATM**
- **Pet food**
- **Ice cream**
- **Gas**
- **Lunch meats**
- **Cheese**
- **Bread & buns**

218-727-7635

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just one mile south of the Aerial Bridge

Park Point Community Club October 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Grassroots politics were once again on the minds of the Park Point Community Club members this cool, clear October night. The assembling group did their best to settle into Lafayette Square's uncomfortable steel folding chairs, but no one complained; people must make sacrifices for democracy. At eleven past seven Dave Poulin started the meeting by blowing on a golden ram's horn delivered unto his hands by a sudden shaft of sunlight. It was a touching moment, one that never fails to delight visitors. There was a brief correction to last month's minutes; the phone number for the Aerial Bridge operator is 723-3387, not Pennsylvania 6-5000. With that, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Flaig reported that our treasury stands at \$46,363. (That's \$32,092 when the currency is converted to Euros.) The Club's profit for the year is about \$4000. Dave Poulin said the final cost for the Club's audit is \$2050. There is still a small chance for an IRS penalty; we should know that by year's end.

Correspondence: St. John's Church, at the end of Woodland Avenue, has taken over the annual Christmas party for the C.H.U.M. drop-in center; a cause long championed by Park Point's own Maggie McGillis. (Yes, it took an entire church to replace her.) They are soliciting funds for this year, which led to the following **motion:** The Park Point Community Club shall contribute \$200 to the CHUM Christmas Party. **Motion carried.** This was the first of two required votes.

Another letter to the Club was a notice from the City of Duluth Building Inspections about an appeal filed for the construction of a breezeway at 2329 Minnesota Avenue. Club members chose this opportunity to grumble about variances; no other action was taken.

Police Report: Officer Mike Tinsley introduced officer-in-training Nick Lepak, then gave a brief status report about the Point. With schools back in session and cool fall temperatures, complaints about parties have dropped off. He strongly urged Park Pointers to lock up their cars. There have been several recent car prowls, with small objects stolen. Cars affected were parked on the street and in driveways. Much as fire needs fuel, air and ignition to exist, crime needs a victim, a criminal and opportunity. Take one away and the results change. Park rangers are not law-enforcement officers; they can report crime to the police, but can't make arrests.

Following the police report there was a general discussion about traffic and road conditions. Tom Mackay noted that the S-curve streetlights are lit again. Also, the Tot Lot fence some driver smacked into was never repaired. The S-curve used to have large yellow arrow signs along the boulevard; perhaps they should be replaced.

Candidates' Forum: At this point in the meeting, the usual routine of shrieking at each other was suspended so that Club members could shriek at city candidates instead. (Many Club members ardently hoped fistfights would break out between candidates, but it was not to be.) Dave Poulin had a short list of prepared questions similar to those asked at the August forum; each candidate was given a few minutes to answer.

The forum began with **City Council At-large** candidates Tony Cuneo, Becky Hall, Tim Little and Jeff Anderson. The first question was about Canal Park traffic and parking; can anything be done to improve traffic flow without hearing the same old whining about how each and every parking place in Canal Park keeps teetering businesses afloat? Tim Little: "The Canal Park Business Association doesn't have ultimate authority here. This is an issue for the Parking Commission." Jeff Anderson mentioned watching tourists making illegal left turns right in front of traffic leaving the bridge. He too suggested the Parking Commission. Tony Cuneo stressed this was indicative of a lack of planning and responsiveness, one of his central campaign themes. Becky Hall would like to see more cooperation between City departments; those departments need to listen to the concerns of the public in order to resolve these and similar problems.

A question from Dennis Hoelscher brought Park Point's Firehall 5 into the spotlight. Did the candidates support our demands for an additional firefighter per shift? All candidates (identified by initials) said yes; all had evidently thought about the problem since the August forum. JA: "The fire hall needs to be adequately staffed; it's a matter of priorities." He also mentioned the unique shape of Duluth's geography. TC: "This is a safety risk for residents and firefighters." BH: We need to solve Duluth's health-care crisis and get the

the hiring freeze lifted." TL: "We need to examine the priorities of spending; getting people (additional staff) vs. new structures"....The candidates spoke next about the Community Investment Trust Fund, which is derived from casino money. Should that money be applied solely for infrastructure and road repairs, or should some be applied towards low-income housing? All agreed this money must be managed with great care and minimal waste. Good luck with that.... Next question brought the discussion about city finances around to Sky Harbor Airport. BH: The City needs to look for ways to balance the books, including private ownership/management of some city projects. JA: Would like to see the city run more like a business, but must provide core services for residents. TL: Spoke about city inefficiencies, and said Sky Harbor was an asset to the city. TC: Gave his take on financial inefficiency and the difficulties caused by Duluth's unique layout. He praised community policing programs and the neighborhood involvement of the fire departments. ... Dave Poulin was ready with this question: "The Community Club does NOT support variances. What type of homework would you put into reversing planning department decisions? TL: Lots of factors must be considered. Old codes, case-by-case situations make it difficult on Park Point. JA: Outdated zoning regulations have the City Planning Department reacting to problems rather than proactively preventing them. TC: Spoke about the City's languishing Comprehensive Plan, and how it must be made policy. BH: Spoke about the need to adopt the Comprehensive Plan as well, then talked about business development. The City's poor financial shape is interfering with implementation of very good ideas.... This led to a question about the City's use of tax-increment financing. JA: It has been overused. Its purpose is to create good jobs, but the mission has gotten muddled. TC: What are we getting in return? Application of TIF financing has lacked common vision, a common plan. BH: This form of financing has been a good tool statewide, but it's important to know specifics. She mentioned her background in economic development....

City Council District 3: Heather Rand and Sharla Gardiner were asked to respond to the same questions the At-Large candidates had just finished. Each was happy to oblige; their ensuing comments closely paralleled those of the previous candidates. It is plain that the financial crisis gripping the City of Duluth government m before many other priorities (such as an additional firefighter for Firehall 5) could come to pass. Everyone is v intentioned, but without the money, the City is in for a tight squirm. Heather Rand spoke with conviction about the "appalling Duluth streets," and said casino money needs to go to infrastructure problems. Sharla Gardiner noted that the casino profit-sharing agreement with the Anishinaabe band expires in 2010, and the City must make that renegotiation a priority, too. She favors using some casino money for both housing and streets. HR: Housing is a social services issue, best handled by St. Louis County or other agencies, not the city.... Both women stressed their willingness to represent us, their constituents. HR: Enjoys doing detail work, talking to residents. SG: Works as a children's advocate, promises to return phone calls.... Both agreed that the TIF financing needs to change. SG: "The people of the city perceive TIF money has gone into the pockets of a few wealthy individuals, and that wasn't the intent." HR: City went "hog wild" with spending splurges.... **Mayor:** Both Don Ness and Charlie Bell spoke extensively and eloquently about their passion for Duluth, their backgrounds, and the dire financial situation of the city government....

"....too many words" squawked the idiot secretary, and passed out. Meeting adjourned at 9:45!

**Handy Ma'am Services'
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Management**

- 24hr curbside info on 1620 AM radio
- yard signs, ads, posted notices, email flyers
- written applications and background checks
- monitor rental agreements and payments
- home repair & yard maintenance as needed

Contact Karen Arthur at 218-393-2226



Translations- Interpreting – Telemeeting -
Videoconferencing towardinc@aol.com
1924 Minnesota Ave 218-727-2572

Park Point Break



A wetsuit-clad surfer rides a wave into shore near 12th street beach. The waves kicked up by a mid October nor'easter drew surfers from as far away as the Twin Cities to brave the cold waters of Lake Superior off Park Point – and quite a crowd of spectators to watch them as well.



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Editor's Corner

As the Park Point Community Club concluded another informative candidate's forum at its October meeting, our overworked secretary was heard to lament that his copious note taking was a wasted effort, as the elections will have taken place before this issue comes out.

While that is true, his notes still have value, as the minutes will record not so much the promises, as the goals laid out by each candidate, so that down the road, we can judge how successful the victors are in attaining them.

As I write this, however, I have no idea who the victors will be. And while I would never say that it doesn't matter who wins, in one sense it truly doesn't. Because we do know that the city will definitely have a new mayor, and District 3 will have a new City Councilor. And that presents both an opportunity and a challenge to the Community Club. It is up to us to forge a new, more civil working relationship with city officials.

Virtually all the candidates have pledged to try to make city government more efficient and "user friendly". But we need to recognize that with the challenges the city is facing, that is going to be no simple task. Though I am optimistic that there will be improvements, they are likely to be incremental. We will need to be patient, and look for opportunities where we, as a community and a Community Club, can help the city while helping ourselves. We may be entering a new era in city government, but whether it is truly "New" or a continuation of same old, same old, is up to us as much as the newly elected city government.

Editor's Note: The Breeze received a copy of the following correspondence:

October 12, 2007

Mr. Ryan Beamer
Aerial Lift Bridge Supervisor
City of Duluth

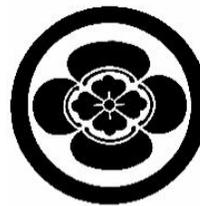
Dear Mr. Beamer,

It has come to my attention, via the Park Point Breeze, that you are not in possession of an official pass for gaining entry to the Park Point Tunnel. Clearly, this was an oversight on the part of the Tunnel Commissioner (whose identity, of course, remains Top Secret). I have communicated with him/her, and s/he agrees that this situation should be rectified as soon as possible. Toward that end, you will find enclosed one Park Point Tunnel Permit, to be posted in a conspicuous place in the Aerial Lift Bridge booth. The choice of a blue (bay side), rather than a yellow (lake side) permit is, like the tunnel itself, somewhat nebulous, as you are situated over the center point of Lake Avenue. Since nearly all of the few remaining (and therefore much coveted) permits are blue, however, the Commissioner hopes that you will accept this gift with the understanding that its selection implies no bias.

The Commissioner also stresses the importance of your understanding the seriousness of keeping "mum" on the location of the tunnel whenever you are in conversation with Off-Pointers. Its use, as I'm sure you're aware, is restricted to Park Point relatives only. You will find an admonition to violators of tunnel privileges written in small print at the base of your pass.

Sincerely,
Nelle Palnuda
Special Envoy to the Commissioner

P.S. – You and your staff are encouraged to join residents for the annual Tunnel Cleanup Day, held each year on November 31st at 2600 hours. All who come on that day to the west (rather than the main) entrance will be issued gloves and cleaning supplies.



Natural Home and Energy
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john h. williams
2525 lake avenue south
duluth, minnesota 55802
Tel: 218.590.6177
E-mail: naturalhomeandenergy@mac.com

Web: <http://web.mac.com/naturalhomeandenergy>

The Breeze

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



Park Point Resident

House Numbers

The Fire Department is in the process of updating it's address information on Park Point, and would like to remind all of us of the City Ordinance on posting house numbers.

**“House numbers should be at least 3” tall and painted in a contrasting color.
Preferred locations are over the front or garage door, clearly visible from the street”**



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Snow Shoveling

Snow Removal

References available

Call now, Dave. **218-340-3426**

1602 St. Louis Ave. Duluth



