

The Breeze

OF PARK POINT

Vol. 36 issue 12

December 2007

Calendar

Park Point Community Club Meeting

No December Meeting
Happy Holidays!

Buoys & Gulls Mtg

January, 2008 1PM
Baypoint Estates
Speaker-Kate Pearson
"Tai Chai"
Please join us.

Bingo Thursdays @
11AM

Bring Your Lunch-coffee's
on us.

Time to Lighten Up



Ham Smith spends his Thanksgiving weekend setting up his ever-growing light display at 1620 Minnesota Avenue.

The Holiday Season just wouldn't be the same without the bright lights that banish the winter darkness along Park Point. Champion decorator Marcia Hales, whose huge walk-through display always draws crowds to 3739 Lake Ave. S., once again urges Park Pointers to join in the fun. This year she received the Community Club's blessing to enter Park Point in the Neighborhood category of the City of Duluth Holiday Lighting Contest. Judging for that will be done the first week of December – before this issue comes out. But the contest isn't the real reason for putting up the lights, and even if you miss the contest you can still brighten the night. Marcia has suggested a "tomato cage tree", - an inverted tomato cage wrapped in white lights – as kind of a community symbol to tie our displays together. But there are no "rules" to holiday decorating. Do whatever lights you up.

A Bright "Green" Christmas

It's a dilemma all of us face: in this era of global warming and rising energy costs, how do you justify wasting electricity on unnecessary lighting displays? In an absolute sense, you really can't. But from solstice fires to menorahs to Christmas candles, lighting up the darkness has been a part of Winter celebrations since long before electricity. And to deny people that pleasure seems rather "grinchy". So whether your interest is in saving the planet or just saving a buck, here are a few things you can do to lessen your electric usage. First of all, using inexpensive timers to turn your lights on and off automatically can reduce the number of kilowatt hours dramatically. Then, if you haven't already, switch from the big, hot burning traditional lights to mini lights. Or better yet, switch to the new LED lights, which, while more
(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 4th for the January 2008 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

Ice Rink Update

Parks and Recreation Director Kathy Bergen came to the November Park Point Community Club meeting to talk about the status of the ice rink at Lafayette for this season. As Kathy had informed me previously, the problem with staffing the warming house last winter was due to the difficulty in finding qualified personnel willing to work the part-time weather dependent hours. When she stated this at the meeting, a veteran Park Pointer said that he would be willing to work it. He has applied, and though not yet officially hired, things are looking very good, and I fully expect the warming house to be open regular hours this winter. The “official” opening date for Duluth’s skating rinks is December 26th, and they stay open, weather permitting, until February 24th. But of course, people start skating as soon as there is ice. And the warming houses may be staffed a bit earlier if everything is ready. Normally, warming houses at the ice rinks are open from 1pm – 7pm on Saturdays, 1pm – 5pm on Sundays, and at least two weeknights per week, from 4pm – 8pm (more often if staff is available). Hours will be posted when they are officially set.

Kathy’s bigger concern was that with the cutbacks in the Parks Maintenance Division the city would not be able to keep up with flooding and clearing the rinks, and it is here that she was seeking volunteers. I volunteered to be the contact person between the City and other volunteers. Anyone willing to help with flooding and clearing the rink can call me, at 726-0110, or e-mail breezeditor@msn.com. If we can get enough names we can set up a time schedule so it’s not too big a burden on anyone. Chuck Cambell, the Parks and Rec employee who is coordinating the rinks, told me that at some rinks he has organizations and church groups who have volunteered to help, but anyone can do it. We have hoses and shovels at Lafayette.

The city has already begun to flood the rinks, including Lafayette, and will continue to do so as time allows, but once the snow starts – and it’s starting NOW – they will be pretty busy elsewhere. And the rink will depend on us.
Alan Dartanyan

Bright Green, from page 1

expensive initially, claim to reduce energy usage by 80 to 90 percent. I first started seeing these a couple years ago, but this year they seem to be everywhere, in all different bulb shapes and colors. And prices are dropping, especially with the rebates offered by your local utility company.

Finally, and perhaps ultimately, are the new Solar LED lights.

I picked up a 50 light string, and though not quite as bright as plug ins, they seem to work well, even after cloudy days, and are still burning when I go to bed. Far I’ve mostly seen these mostly on small, lighted figures and short strands of lights, and of course, they, too, are far more expensive than traditional plug in lights. But as the technology improves and they become more common, expect the price to drop. Rejoice! The era of guilt free holiday lighting will soon be upon us!

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On November 30, 2007 we began our celebration of 100 years presence as a faith community on Park Point. There will be a number of events happening between this date and the end of 2008 -- to which all are invited to help celebrate! Of course, part of this time we will be in the midst of construction -- but what an opportunity to lead us into the next 100 years. St. Andrew's is an open and inclusive Christian community, inviting all who have interest to join us in our spiritual pilgrimage toward that which is Holy (there are many names for the Holy One).

May you have an Advent Season filled with hope, joy, peace and love.

Here are some simple thoughts to carry along during the day:

God is with me, but more,

God is within me, giving me existence,

Let me dwell for a moment on God's life-giving presence in my body, my mind, my heart and in the whole of my life.

As evening comes:

Faithful One, as day ends

may I rest in the knowledge

that all things of Earth are holy

and that all people are one in you.

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist - December 24, 2007

4:30 pm

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PPCC Meeting Minutes November 15, 2007

Dave Johnson led the meeting. Minutes from last months meeting approved.

Treasurer Chuck Flaig read the balance sheet. Dave J. gave the details of the Club's IRS fine of approx.\$2200 for failure to file pay taxes for the last three years. The Club hired Esterbrooks and Assoc. accounting firm to file the returns and they will pursue forgiveness of the fine for us. Discussion followed re. hiring an accountant that knows non-profit tax law to avoid future fines. Chuck is handling the books but does not want to do the taxes. Motion carried to look into finding a cost effective bookkeeper to handle the taxes. Any bookkeepers specializing in non-profits out there? Please come to the next meeting with your suggestions.

The financial review committee needs more information from Chuck to do an audit. Discussed having a detailed financial report passed out at each meeting and a quarterly report in the Breeze.

Motions carried for \$200 for CHUM Christmas party and \$599 for honorarium for Joy Fouts the Lafayette summer youth program director. These items had their preliminary approvals last month.

Kathy Bergen, acting director of City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Dept., spoke about last year's and the upcoming skating season. She explained that there were no qualified applicants for the rink supervisor last year. There was only one applicant and that individual did not pass the background check. These positions are harder to fill because of odd hours and short season. Of course the season's skating success is weather dependent. Park maintenance is losing 4 employees so there will be 18 rinks to maintain with fewer employees. be the key to success. Kathy welcomes a cooperative spirit and will work with the community to make skating successful at Lafayette. Dave Lavamaki announced that he will apply for the rink manager position but he will need help from volunteers. Kathy encourages you to call her with questions or ideas. Alan will keep in touch with Kathy re. flood times and schedules. We can start flooding when we get the go ahead from Kathy.

Mike Tinsley spoke about the DUNEFEST hoax. Fliers were posted promoting an off road ATV event on Park Point on Nov. 22-25. PPCC and Duluth Park's and Rec. were listed as sponsors. Officer Tinsley had some ideas about the identity of the prankster.

A resident suggested the sign above the flashing light be replaced so drivers know that there is a curve ahead.

County Commissioner Dennis Fink apologized for missing meetings, he has a committee meeting in the Cities while we meet. He explained the details of the county tax increase of 4.2%, which represents approx. 4.2 million dollars. About 3 million dollars of the increase will go towards health insurance, county is self-insured. County working on cost savings by consolidating staff and changing the vehicle fleet system. There are 87 counties in MN and our county's tax increase is on the low end of statewide increases, 15th from the lowest.

S-Curve Project stopped because liability issues. The city architect we were working with retired. PPCC received a letter from the city attorney stating that the city would work with us to finish the project if PPCC would enter into a contract stating that PPCC would be responsible for issues that arose at that Park location in terms of liability. Project was stopped but needs to be wrapped up in order to receive county grant money administered through the city. Kathy Bergen offered to help facilitate negotiation with the city channels and get the dollars secured and the project finished. Dave J. working on the sign and setting up the next meeting on the S curve finalization.

Motion carried that the PPCC endorses the entrance of the Park Point Community in the annual holiday lighting contest. Last year Park Point won honorable mention with over 250 homes lit up. Marcia Hales

(continued next page)

(Minutes, continued)

encouraged residents to get their lights up ASAP as the judging starts the first week of December. Environmental Report described the status of the pine forest controversy near Sky Harbor Airport. The Airport Authority is spending \$300-500k to study the forest. PPCC has hired Peters and Peters law firm @\$150.00 per hour to explore options to protect the pines from cutting.

The preliminary budget for the Art Fair was approved. Concerns were raised about losing space due to blown sand, which decreases the number of artists/vendors. We would like to pursue more electric outlets on the site or renting a generator. Maybe a company would provide a generator for a sponsorship. The layout and logistics of the art fair would be greatly enhanced with more access to electricity. If anyone has any ideas about how to get this accomplished or would like to help with this project call Carla Tamburro, art fair coordinator.

No December meeting. January meeting is the membership meeting and PIZZA PARTY. Discussed revisiting the PPCC at the Jan. meeting. What is our mission? Who are our members and what do we want to accomplish? What do we support? Come to the meeting in January and visit with your neighbors, make some new acquaintances and share your answers to these questions.

Motion carried to buy food and beverages for PPCC meetings at Bayside Market. This is a decision that was made this summer but forgotten.

Motion carried to approve committees and their members. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Buck, volunteer secretary.



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Editor's Corner

Winter is upon us, as the December 1st storm just dumped somewhere between 8 and 10 inches of snow on Park Point. It's a good time to remind everyone to keep their sidewalks clear, for the safety of pedestrians. (Actually, most people are pretty good about shoveling after the first snowfall, and the second and third... It's when you get to about the 37th that people say "the heck with it, I'll wait for spring")

Did you see that the Duluth News-Tribune's "Eh" column picked up on our plans for a new S-curve sign. Dang! Now the whole city is watching! I suppose we'll really have to do it!

I for one have been really happy to see the uptick in the fox population here on Park Point, as they help keep the voracious bunnies in check. But I've been hearing some disturbing stories about close encounters with these little predators. Yes, red foxes are cute, curious and playful, but they are wild animals. And just like deer, rabbits, and even seagulls they can become a nuisance – and even a danger to pets and children – when they lose their fear of man. Please do not feed or approach the foxes. And you might want to think twice about letting your cat run loose at night. (This is a doubly good idea: it protects the birds from the cats, and the cats from the foxes.)

Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to say "Happy Holidays" to all my Park Point neighbors, and add an extra "Thank You" to those who deliver the Breeze each month. For though we take a break from Community Club meetings this month, the Breeze still goes through. "Neither rain nor sleet, nor dark of night"... you know the rest.

Dear Fellow Park Pointers:

I was recently told of an anonymous letter that was read at a Community Club meeting, complaining of a driftwood sculpture that the letter writer thought shouldn't be allowed. I'm told the letter was "rather nasty", and that some residents near or associated with that sculpture feel hurt and threatened. I was also told that at least a couple people suggested that I may have been the writer! Absolutely not! There apparently was also conjecture that I owned rental property. I do not. There is another Jim Gruba in Duluth who is in the rental property business. I spoke with him and he does not own any property on the point and was also not the letter writer. It is unfortunate that someone (the anonymous letter writer) was so critical without willing to take ownership and responsibility. I also think it's unfortunate that anyone would begin to speculate and suggest someone (me!) to be the culprit without talking to me.

Happy Holidays

Jim Gruba

A Park Pointer and generally decent human being.



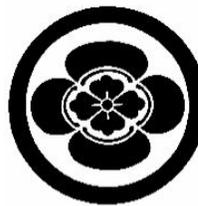
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The Breeze

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: 723-3425 (after hours 723-33330)
Fire station #5 (Park Point): 723-3215
Community Police Officer Mike Tinsley: 390-2863

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