



# The Breeze

## OF PARK POINT

Vol. 37 issue 2

February 2008

### Calendar

**Park Point Community  
Club Meeting**  
February 21<sup>st</sup>., 7PM  
At Lafayette

**Buoys & Gulls Mtg**  
Tuesday Mar 4th 1PM  
Baypoint Estates  
Community RM  
FEB 14 Bingo will be  
followed by  
Potluck Dinner  
Everyone is welcome-  
Call Elaine @279-3955  
for details.

**Official closing date for  
City Skating rinks**  
February 22nd.  
Get out while it's still cold!

## Quite A Production



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

A crew from Rainbow, Inc., the Twin Cities firm hired to paint and repair the Aerial Lift Bridge, works to hang the curtain, which now shrouds a good portion of the mainland-bound lane. When the multi-million dollar price tag of the project was announced, many people may have thought, "Gee, I'd paint it for less than that". But watching the project develop you quickly realize it ain't no simple paint job. Just the cost of keeping what amounts to a canvas tent heated during the recent blast of sub-zero weather had to eat into the budget, and unlike the school kids, I didn't see any of the workers getting the day off. Work on the bridge – and the resulting single lane traffic – is scheduled to continue until the shipping season reopens around March 22<sup>nd</sup>. And then will resume again next year when shipping closes again.

# *The Breeze*

**Editor: Alan Dartanyan  
726-0110**

## **Submissions**

The deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup> for the March 2008 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: 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 Flaig 940-2613  
[barbaraflaig@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaraflaig@yahoo.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](http://parkpointcommunityclub.org)

## **We were the Champions!**

For those who didn't notice (and I apologize for not mentioning it last month) Park Point placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the neighborhood division of the Holiday Lighting Contest. Liz Mackay, of 2233 Minnesota Avenue, was the one who registered our entry, and as such her address listed among the winners. The result was a steady stream of cars stopping to admire their modest (though tasteful) display. When questioned they "explained" that a much larger display lay buried under the heavy December snow.

This, of course, was the fate of many displays, including Ham Smith's, who's early decorating was featured on the front page of the December Breeze. But in many cases this just added to the effect, with lights glowing under drifts of snow. So congratulations to all who participated – and of course to Mother Nature.

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to direct people's attention to a new ad from our oldest and most dependable advertiser, Bayside Market. Rather than just advertising his specials this month, Dick has chosen to use his space both to thank his customers and bring them up to date on developments there.

The idea has been bandied about before of local investors buying the store to ensure it remains open. And while that's not a function for the community club, I'm sure the club – and certainly the Breeze – will be willing to do what it can to bring people together who are interested in saving this valuable asset to the Point.

\*\*\*\*\*

People may have noticed that things are a little clearer on the s-curve sign. (The letters, anyway, I can't speak for the messages) The old plexi-glass cover on the message board had deteriorated to the point where it was more opaque than transparent. So sign guru Dave Johnson took the drastic action, while gasping at the cost, of buying a new sheet of plexi to replace it. This new plexi-glass will be incorporated into the new and improved s-curve sign coming (we hope) this spring

**St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church**  
(Meeting at 4401 Glenwood Avenue) 727-1262

As the season of Lent approaches, I am thinking of thresholds. Thresholds are places of transition between inside and outside, and a symbol for going deeper into more personal space. Thresholds are also liminal space, in that we stand in between two places -- not altogether in one or the other. Sometimes in life we stand on thresholds, or in liminal space. Thresholds are invitations to go deeper into an inner sanctum - a symbolic death of the familiar to the rebirth of a more intimate inner knowledge of self. For the Christian, this rebirth is also a more intimate relationship with God in Christ. Gates, walls, hedges are all thresholds into a garden space (I know many of you on Park Point love to garden and have the Spring catalogs to look forward to!). They invite the visitor to shed the fast public pace found outside the garden, and they instill a sense of arrival to a sacred inner sanctum. The days of Lent can be seen in a similar way -- inviting us to slow down, to enter an inner sanctum where we can dwell with God and grow deeper in relationship. The important thing to remember is that when we leave the garden, the holy is outside of it as well. Divine Presence permeates everywhere. Perhaps something to think about during Lent are the transition places in your life. Are you standing on a threshold to something new? Is there something that needs to die, before you can go on into new life?

**Ash Wednesday** 5:30 pm -- children and youth service, followed by soup supper (6 pm)

7 p.m. - Holy Eucharist and Imposition of ashes  
ALL ARE WELCOME



[www.SuperiorTranslations.com](http://www.SuperiorTranslations.com)

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

**Handy Ma'am Services'**  
**Park Point Property**  
**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



**Painting**  
**By**  
**Dave**



**I take Pride and Care in my**  
**Workmanship**

**27 years experience**

**Home care services:**

**Special Cold Weather Rates on**  
**Interior work-painting & staining**

**House & Pet Sitting**

**Snow Shoveling**

**Snow Removal**

**General house repair**

**Antique restoring**

**House cleaning**

**Window cleaning - inside or out**

**Gutter cleaning**

**Cement work – tuck pointing – crown repair**

**References available**

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

**1602 St. Louis Ave. Duluth**

## Securing the future of the Art Fair

It may seem a little early to be discussing a summer event, but planning the Park Point Art Fair is a year round job for Coordinator Carla Tamburro. Among the tasks she's currently involved in is securing the necessary permits from The Parks and Recreation Department so the event can take place.

We've been dealing with steadily increasing permit fees for years now, but this year we face an unusually large jump – enough to threaten the financial viability of the Art Fair. To avoid this, Parks and Rec Director Kathy Bergen has suggested that we seek a long term special use permit from the city. This would have to be approved by the city council. An executive board meeting of the Park Point Community Club was called to draft a proposal, which could be presented to the city.

What we are proposing is a five year contract (the maximum length allowed) which would freeze our permit fee at a level that, while well above what we've paid previously, is still within the Art Fair budget. The contract would stipulate all the little things we've had to work out yearly, from water and power to use of the pavilions and artists access to their sites. This would make permitting much easier not only for us, but for the Parks And Rec department as well.

Kathy Bergen has offered to help shepherd our proposal through the various departments and committees, but in order to “sell” this proposal to the city council, the Executive Board made up a list of the community benefits of the Art Fair, such as the volunteer nature of the event, the number of artists and art buyers drawn to town, the relationships built between the artists and the community through things such as the artists and volunteers dinner, and the free music and kid's art area provided.

Then we made a list on the other end, of how the profits from the Art Fair are plowed back into the community, through things such as donations to the Lafayette Youth Programs, the annual plantings of trees and beach grass to minimize erosion, building of boardwalks, painting the interior of Lafayette, and much more.

We feel we have a very strong case to support the Art Fair, and members of the executive Board expressed a willingness to come to the city council meeting and speak it it's behalf. But our hope is that long before it comes to a vote its passage will be assured by the support of most if not all the city councilors. Our own new city councilor Sharla Gardner has already voiced her support, and when the proposal and it's accompanying arguments are sent to the other councilors, we believe they will support it as well.

## **Park Point Community Club January 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

It was so cold this January night the conversations people had been having outdoors froze in the air and fell to the ground. As the meeting began, all the frozen words were being collected and carried into the kitchen of Lafayette Square, where they were heaped in a pile to thaw. Their garbled noise would suddenly erupt as they melted, which added to the jolly post-holiday din of the Club's pre-meeting pizza party. It was the first meeting since November, and neighbors had a lot to catch up on. Reluctantly, Dave Poulin tried again to rap the meeting to order. It was 7:07. Minutes from the November meeting were approved without problems (because Dawn Buck took them, substituting for the usual bozo.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Flaig conducted a lengthy report on Club finances, including our income and expenses for 2007 and our current balance (\$40,062 as of tonight). He had recently met with the Club's Audit Committee; there was a short question & answer session about hiring a bookkeeper to handle our increasingly more complicated tax situation. Club members that spoke in favor of the hiring made it clear no insult should be directed towards Chuck; it simply isn't fair to swamp any one volunteer with work. On the topic of Club taxes, we received correspondence from the IRS that we will not have any fines or penalties imposed on us for previous delays. The treasurer's report was accepted by the Club; the topic would arise again during the Audit Committee report.

**Correspondence:** The Club received a notice from the City for a variance request by Denny and Sue Johnson, 4019 Minnesota Avenue. The Johnsons plan to remove an existing garage and rebuild it in a way that will complement their property better. They solicited letters of support from their neighbors, and Cheryl Fosdick, the architect for the project, attended tonight's meeting to answer any questions. No one spoke in opposition to the project, but a resulting discussion on impervious surfaces on the Point stretched for two days.... The most recent issue of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority magazine carries a cover photo shot by our own Cap'n Tom Mackay. Nice work, Tom.... **The City of Duluth is planning to re-roof and repaint Lafayette Square this summer.** Our years of carping may be paying off, or maybe somebody got a deal on discount shingles. With any luck, they won't paint over all our fresh interior paint.

**Art Fair:** Carla Tamburro brought the Club up-to-date on planning for the 2008 Park Point Art Fair. She recently met with Kathy Bergen, from the City of Duluth Parks & Rec. Department. Insurance rates are rising, and the City is holding firm on charging a higher park rental fee than we've been paying. (Rumor has it the City needs money.) There has been a long-standing problem with our electrical hookups at the Park; the power is necessary for the food vendors' wagons, but existing connections are tethered together with chewing gum. The Club has previously discussed paying an electrician to upgrade it ourselves; such a plan would have to be passed through those nosebleeds in the City Attorneys' Office. Carla is creating a vendor policy she will use for choosing which food vendors are invited to set up at the Art Fair. Competition between vendors can be fierce, and there are always small disputes to settle.

This will be Carla's third year as Art Fair director. Innovations have included music and a kids' area and both have proven to be popular with fairgoers. The improvements, along with rising fees, nibble into the overall profits of the Fair. She discussed putting out a donations can at the entrances; a simple \$1 request to offset the park fee. On the other hand, a can full of cash is a ready target during a busy event.

A banner will be hung across Superior Street on the Skywalk for the week preceding the Art Fair. Advertising for this year's guide/map is also starting to come in, and the web site will be up and running around April. Art for the distinctive Park Point Art Fair poster will be provided by lifelong Point resident Tom Rauschenfels. Another recent change to the Fair, these stylish posters are worth collecting.

**Police Report:** Officer Mike Tinsley distributed a year-end statistics report that also included copies of similar reports from 2006 and 2005. Traffic stops and park enforcement citations are up. Mike noted wearily that one delightfully special block of downtown's First Street generated more calls to/for/by police than all Park Point did last year. Bicycle patrols and officers-in-training will both return to Canal Park and the Point this summer. The 4-wheelers will be used on the beach as well. Cops on the ATVs have broken up underage drinking, and have picked up countless piles of litter.

(continued next page)

(Minutes, continued)

Club discussion turned to traffic control. The fence at the S-curve needs signs; so does the flashing amber light by 14th. That flashing light was put up as a response to a tragic accident that killed two Park Pointers in the 1960's.

In one of the Club's famous tangents, discussion turned to Tasers; whether Mike had been Tased (he has) and Maced (again yes; "Mace is way worse.") Glaring at the Club's idiot secretary, Dave Poulin asked about the availability of a Taser on a short-term basis; hastily the secretary shook himself out of a daydream, sat up straight and did his best to pay attention.

"I said flood the rink!" In what was the most unsettling moment of the evening, Dave Poulin's own voice was clearly heard yelling from the kitchen, melting back into sound even as he himself sat up at the front of the hall. He quickly tried to remember what else he'd said that had frozen up; he hoped it wasn't anything embarrassing....

**Audit Committee Report:** Dawn Buck gave the report on behalf of committee members Tom Lyle and Frank Puglisi. They went through as much material as they had; check registers, taxes, UBS account summaries, etc. They see the Club as managing three businesses: the Art Fair, rentals at Lafayette, and the Breeze. Their first recommendation for the Club returned us to the treasurers' report: We need to hire a bookkeeper or CPA to do our books and taxes, including filing Form 1099 payroll taxes. Our fee to the tax consultant (Esterbrook Accounting Services) that just finished filing our taxes was \$2100; more than we'd been expecting, but we end up with a clean bill of health financially.

Chuck Flaig talked about his monthly time-investment in his job as Club treasurer. Paying the bills doesn't take much time (it fluctuates), but he again made it clear he doesn't want to do the taxes; something he's been maintaining for three years!

Audit Committee member Tom Lyle brought up some of his questions for the Club to consider. He is concerned about the vague liability issues that surround Lafayette rentals when alcohol is served. Events that serve alcohol require both a special permit from the City and an on-site security guard.

A motion to hire a bookkeeper was tabled (after much more discussion) until next month. There is no question the Club is in favor of the improvement; rather, the Club's Executive Board needs to meet with the Audit Committee first. **Motion: The Club accepts the report of the Audit Committee. Motion carried.** Exhausted from the effort, Club members dabbed at their foreheads with napkins.

**Quality of Life Report:** The usual spokesman for the group is vacationing in Florida; tonight his quality of life can't be all that bad. Tom Mackay spoke instead, on topics introduced during Officer Tinsley's report. The turn on Morse Street between Grandma's parking lots came under scrutiny. As the situation now stands, Park Pointers headed home often get trapped behind (insert favorite word here) tourists turning left illegally onto Morse. The Canal Park Business Association may not object to the removal of three southbound on-street parking slots. This gives space to create a thru lane for Park Pointers and a turn lane for the clowns. North-bound drivers will be left in Fate's fickle hands. The topic must be brought to the City of Duluth Parking Commission.

**Park Point Breeze:** Editor Alan Dartanyan brought his own summary for 2007. The Club published 13 issues last year, including the smash hit "Blizzard Extra". Cost to publish: \$4476.81. Revenue from advertising: \$4312.81. Total expense to Club: \$1474.31. (Benefit to community: Priceless.)

This led to a general discussion about the Breeze and other community resources we can all take pride in. Liz Mackay explained her surprise at learning Park Point had won first place in the annual holiday display contest's Neighborhood category, despite three blizzards: "There were some beautiful displays down here, completely covered by snow." At least, that's what we told the judges.

**Skating Rinks:** Dave Lavamaki said the rink ice has been terrific, and it's been getting pretty steady use in spite of the Martian weather. He thanked the great volunteers that have been lending a hand with flooding the rinks and opening the building. Dave reminded us that care and upkeep for the hockey rink is entirely up to the community. A group using the hockey rink at night has been good about helping.

(continued next page)

(still more minutes)

"Yap yap yap yap!" Everyone in the meeting hall jumped, startled by the sudden sound of a small dog barking in the kitchen. "Frozen dog barks," someone said, and the crowd relaxed. The Club briefly discussed selling frozen dog barks as a fundraiser (if you're threatened by a burglar, you could pop a few in the toaster) but the idea was rejected because shipping frozen dog barks to warmer climates might accidentally scare mailmen....

**Environmental Report:** We received notice from St. Louis County Commissioner Dennis Fink that our deadline for completion of the S-curve improvements has been extended to February, 2009. Work at the site will resume if winter ever ends. Dave Poulin read the list of people named to the Airport Public Advisory Committee (APAC). Shhh! They don't know we've hired lawyers yet, so don't tell them.

**New Business & Notes:** Memberships are coming in; if anyone missed the membership form in the January Breeze, just contact Dave Poulin.... Diane Gould won't be here to get the coffee going and the cookies set out before the next meeting. (A hush fell over the Scandinavians in the club; any disruption in the coffee supply line was to be taken seriously.) Diane will try to find a replacement. Our thanks to her and to Alan & Cheryl Dartanyan for tonight's pizza.... Thanks also go to the City of Duluth plowing crews for getting snow banks out of the parking lanes after the blizzards.... Bridge repairs will hold traffic to one controlled lane for several weeks, starting Monday, Jan. 21.

**Nature Watch:** Recent predator sightings reported at the meeting include coyotes and timberwolves out on the bay ice; neighbors have also seen foxes, bald eagles and perhaps a pterodactyl....

At 8:55 Dave Poulin adjourned the meeting. He felt a tugging at his sleeve; an idea plainly had entered the club secretary's head: "If we can't sell frozen dog barks, maybe we could let people come here to freeze their own words. They could save 'em up for later, thaw them out when they have sore throats. Politicians would gladly do it!"

"It won't work with politicians. Their words don't freeze," Poulin replied. "Too much hot air...."

Respectably sub-zero,  
Dave Johnson, Idiot Secretary



## COME HOME TO BAYSHORE.



Providing skilled nursing care, rehabilitation, memory care,  
a Young Adult Unit and long-term care to the community.

{ Located next to Superior Bay on Park Point. }

To arrange a tour of Bayshore Health Center  
call Mary Sinner at 740-4022.

  
**Bayshore**  
A Commitment to Care

1601 St. Louis Avenue, Duluth, MN 55802

Bayshore is a member of the Ecumen Family.





Natural Home and Energy  
Green building+design

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>



## Insurance?

- It's about people, not things.
- It's about security.
- It's about confidence.
- It's about relationships.
- It's about trust.
- It's about you!

As a local independent agent, we can design an insurance program that's just right for you and your family. Give the people you love Safe.Sound.Secure.\* protection from Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

***Auto-Owners Insurance***



# TPI

TWIN PORTS INSURANCE

KENWOOD AGENCY

1309 KENWOOD AVENUE • DULUTH, MN 55811

Jeff McCaffrey CPCU

218- 728-3600

[www.twinportsinsurance.com](http://www.twinportsinsurance.com)

**EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

*Eating fit!*

**A healthy serving of healthy servings**



Thai Chicken with Sesame Dressing

Due to the overwhelming responses to Eating Fit!, it is now going to stay on the main menu! Enjoy the flavors of Green Mill and be true to your commitment to eat healthy. Counting fats, calories or even dietary fiber? The Green Mill Eating Fit menu features healthier alternatives – many that meet the requirements of today's most popular diets.



340 Lake Ave ★ Duluth ★ 218-727-7000

### Editor's Corner

In this time of rapidly rising taxes and utility bills, I hear lots of grumbling about our money going away for nothing. I'd like to take a contrarian view and point out where some of this money is coming back.

Start at the Bridge – literally. The painting and repair work going on right now is a multi-million dollar contract. And whether its federal, state or local money, it's all from taxes.

Then roll on down the street. You can actually do that now. Remember how bad that stretch of Lake Avenue from the bridge to the s-curve was? It took some crying, but it did get repaved. With tax money.

Now were at the s-curve. Yes, I know, we're still arguing over contracts and we haven't been reimbursed yet, but what sparked all the reconstruction there was a county grant. Again, tax money.

Then there are other projects in the works. The fire house on 22<sup>nd</sup> is scheduled to totally remodeled over the next couple years. And as announced in the minutes of last month's meeting, Lafayette is finally going to get a paint job and a much-needed new roof.

So it's not as if all our money is going down a rat hole. Sometimes it takes patience – lots of it – but eventually some of it rolls back our way.

## The wolf really is at the Door!



Brush wolves, anyway, or coyotes as they're better known. This healthy looking guy\* is just one of several sited on or around Park Point this winter. They've been seen on both the lake and bay sides of the Point, and though I've never heard of them being aggressive toward people, they aren't particularly shy. No doubt they've joined the foxes in feasting on our overabundance of rabbits, but they're yet another reason for keeping your cats – and small dogs – inside.

\*photo "borrowed" from Bayside and used without permission. Just can't trust us media types.

## *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



901 MINNESOTA AVENUE

• 727-7635 •

DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802

A big **“Thank You”** to those who have been trying to help support our store. We really appreciate it.

Especially with the rises we will all have to endure for taxes and utilities.

We have a couple who really want to purchase the store and operate it in the same manner we are, but they do not have enough down payment to get a loan. If we could find a person or group of investors to buy the store and lease it to them, that might work. In the meantime we will keep operating the store as we always have and keep looking for someone who wants to keep it that way. Your support and our remodeling have helped boost interest in the store.

Our meat and Sausage business has really gone up over the past year. The word is getting out about the quality and value of our products. If you like exceptional sausage and meats please give us a try.

Thank You again

Dick, Melinda, Brady and Joan