

The Breeze OF PARK POINT

Vol. 38 issue 1

January 2009

Calendar

Park Point community Club Annual Membership meeting and Pizza Party
January 15th
Pizza at 6:30
Meeting at 7PM

Good Dog Club
Wednesdays, 7PM
Lower level of
Lafayette

Retirement Party for Dick Gajewski
January 11
3-7 PM
Carmody Irish Pub
308 E. Superior St.

A Little Bit of Ice



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

So we do have a skating rink at Lafayette, albeit a smaller one than in years past. This despite the vote by the Community Club back in September not to fund a rink this year, barring a groundswell of support, and despite the Club getting no response to a city-wide offer of the rink to any group willing to flood and maintain it. In the end, it didn't take any great groundswell, just a few people – largely, Peg LaForge and family – who decided to just get it done. After talking Community Club President Dave Poulin into authorizing club funds for an initial plowing, this small group of volunteers flooded a rink perhaps one half to two thirds the size of the usual size. Bob Boynton then volunteered to plow the rink for free. This meant local kids had a place to skate over the winter break, and the warming house has even been open on a limited basis. I don't know if it will see "heavy" use, but in passing by I have already seen kids, adults, and a few hockey players enjoying the ice. Justification enough for those hardworking volunteers who decided to "just do it"

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
726-0110

Submissions

The deadline is January 30th for the February 2009 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: Dave Poulin
3101 S. Lake Ave.
722-1511

Vice President: Liz Mackay
2233 Minnesota Ave
722-1834

Secretary: Dawn Buck
3105 Minnesota Ave.
525-1764

Treasurer: Chuck Flraig
1511 Minnesota Ave.
727-2814

Committees

ART FAIR
Carla Tamburro
727-2661

RUMMAGE SALE
Dick Gould
727-4067

ENVIRONMENTAL
Kinnan Stauber, 722-6255

HOSPITALITY
Diane Gould, 727-4067

LAFAYETTE SQUARE RENTALS
Barb Flraig 727-2814
barbaraflraig@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



I considered running this picture on the front page – the “Closed” and “For Sale” signs in the front window of Bayside Market. But it just seemed to depressing to start out the New Year that way. But that is the reality we face in 2009 – a Park Point without a grocery, convenience store or gas station. Of all the “crises” that arose on Park Point in the past year, from the renovation of the Fire Hall (on hold), the Airport/Pine Forest conflict (ongoing), the Land Sale (done deal, I think), it is the closing of Bayside that will have the most dramatic effect on the neighborhood. (Well, maybe the bridge work, and nighttime bridges closings, rank up there, but that was temporary.)

Just what will become of the rare piece of commercially zoned property that Bayside sits on isn’t known – at least by me. Given the economy, it seems unlikely that it will wind up sprouting condos soon. There are enough empty ones sitting around town as it is. And it’s hardly a prime location for a single family home. Another business? What kind could survive there, if the market struggled? Will it wind up sitting empty?

The headline in the August 2007 issue of the Breeze referred to Bayside as “The Heart of Park Point”. That referred to Bayside being not just a market and gas station, but a community gathering place and reference point. Can that “heart” be moved? If so, where to, and what form would it take?

I am printing again, on page 8, the announcement of Dick and Mel’s retirement party at Carmody on Jan. 11th. As we gather to wish them well, these are a few of the things we should be pondering.

To those who used to pick up their Breeze at the Bayside Market:

Beginning in January, you can pick up your copy at

Country By The Lake
723 S. Lake Ave.

They’re open Mon. – Sat. 10 – 5 & Sundays 12 – 4

Take a few minutes to shop while you’re there!



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References available

Call now, Dave. 218-340-3426

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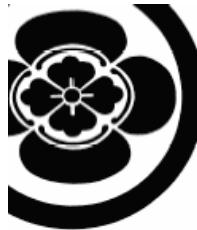
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Dr. Stephanie West

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Park Point Community Club Membership Drive 2009

The Park Point Community Club is conducting its annual membership drive. The club gives the community a common voice on issues, aids youth programs, manages the annual Park Point Art Fair and Rummage Sale, works on environmental projects and publishes The Breeze monthly. Individual memberships are \$3 a year and allow one vote at meetings. If more than one family member wishes to have a vote please buy additional memberships. Membership is limited to Park Point residents 18 years or older.

Mail your memberships to the Park Point Community Club, P.O. Box 16326, Duluth, MN 55816-0326. Or bring them to any Community Club meeting, which are held the 3rd Thursday of each month, at Lafayette Community Center. Meetings start at 7PM

Membership Form

Name(s)_____

Address_____

E-Mail address_____

Number of Memberships_____ X \$3.00=_____

Please Mail Checks to:

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

Breeze Report

Each January, since I don't have Community Club minutes to print, I try to include a brief financial statement for the Breeze. It's always been approximate, since my book keeping is a bit sloppy. I never really worried about it, because all financial actions go through Treasurer Chuck Flaig anyway, so he's got the official records. But, as I tried to compile this, I thought, "Geez, you really could do a better job of keeping track of this. It isn't that hard." It's a little late for 2008, but for next year, I set up a little better accounting system, so hopefully next year it'll be easier, and more exact. But for this year, here's what I've got.

2008 printing costs:	\$4451.84	\$4574.84
Postage (approx.) :	<u>\$ 123.00</u>	- \$3280.00
total expenses	\$4574.84	Total cost to PPCC: \$1294.84
2008 ad income :	\$3280.00	(A bargain at half the price)

St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church
2802 Minnesota Avenue
www.standrewsbythelake.org
727-1262

WE'RE BACK!! THE RENOVATION IS COMPLETE!

After we are settled more, we hope to have an open house so all who would like, can come in and see what we did to our sanctuary and community space.

OR, we'd be so glad to see anyone join us for worship at any time. You are always welcome!

Sunday - 9:45 a.m.

Christian Formation for children and youth - 9:45 a.m.

Nursery care available. The building is totally accessible.

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
2004 Minnesota Ave.

We welcome new members

Sunday Mass 9 AM

2nd Sunday Coffee & Rolls after mass.

For Religious Education Class Schedule & Bible Study Group

Call Church Office 722-3078

Retirement party for Dick Gajewski

There's been a lot of talk in the last month or so regarding the impending retirement of Dick Gajewski and the subsequent closing of the Bayside Market. Dick, Mel, and the whole crew at the Bayside Market have had an impact on all us over the last several years. The conversations we have all had around the meat counter, the freezer section, the coffee machine, and the cash register have helped us establish a unique sense of community. We've chatted with young people and not-as-young, relatives and non-relatives working behind the counter. We've gotten to know each other in a place any other community would refer to as a convenience store but in our community, it has been the heartbeat of the entire sandy point.

Well, here's your opportunity to bid Dick, Mel, and Joan adieu in style. Dick has worked hard over a long period of years. The Park Point community is throwing him a retirement party!!! We're moving the cash register community to Carmody Irish Pub for an afternoon in January. Liz and Ed Gleeson have generously offered us the use of Carmody Irish Pub for a celebration, a celebration of a person and place that has brought us all together all these years. Please come on down to Carmody on January 11th between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. It's potluck so bring a favorite dish to share. Mostly, bring your good spirits and enjoy a few spirits. Let's all wish Dick a great retirement!!

Hope to see you there!

Di Marshall

The Heart is still beating

The snow that fell this weekend as I was finishing up The Breeze reminded me of what the true "Heart" of Park Point is – and that, of course, is the people. As my wife and I worked at shoveling out our driveway, here came our neighbor Julie with her tracked snowblower. Having already cleared the entire alley by her house, she came across the street and cleared both our side and front sidewalks, and continued on to clear the walk in front the unoccupied house next door, too. Nick, another neighbor, who had benefitted from Julie's alley clearing, set to work shoveling the snowplow drift so we could pull our cars out onto Minnesota Avenue.

Even the city snowplow driver, when he pulled into 16th street, stopped and backed up when he saw people running to their cars, giving them time to move their vehicles so they wouldn't get plowed in. And for clearing the drift he left in front of my driveway, and the alley, I made quick work of that with the snow scoop that another neighbor, Jan, always leaves behind her fence, and says I can borrow any time.

It's neighbors like these, and I'm sure you have some like them, that truly make Park Point a special place to live.

Alan Dartanyan, Breeze Editor

Editor's Corner

Seems like every newspaper and magazine does a story on its "Top Stories of the past year", so I decided to look back over the 2008 Breezes and see what the headlines were.

Hmmm. Last January I was bragging about the great ice on the rink at Lafayette. This year, despite claiming in October we would have no ice, we again have headlines about the great ice at Lafayette.

February had a story on the painting of the Lift Bridge. Once the shipping season ends, you might see something like that again. March had a story on the Airport/ Pine Forest issue. That one's likely to see more ink this year. April was on civility training for the PPCC. Did we learn anything? You be the judge.

May must have been a slow news month. Headlines on my personal struggles with a refrigerator. June and July both featured the Art Fair. Naturally. Our signature event, and the source of the funds which underwrite the Breeze. I know which side my bread is buttered on.

August had a story on the Tall Ships, mostly because I got such a great picture of one coming under the bridge. September was "Hard News", on the City land sale. October, that premature "No Ice" article.

November had good news, on the (near) completion of the 12th Street Beach Project. And December the saddest news of all, on the closing of Bayside Market.

So there you have it. The good, the bad, the banal. So what will 2009 bring? Wait and see.

A reminder: January 15th is the Annual PPCC Membership Meeting and Pizza Party. Bring your Membership form and \$3. Pizza at 6:30, meeting at 7. Maybe you'll make the news.

Editor,

100% appreciation to Peg LaForge for her efforts to get the rink up and running this year.

Although the Community Club elected not to fund any ice rink program this year, Peg was able to coerce (without objection) President Dave Poulin into using a small amount of discretionary for an initial plowing of the rink. Lifelong resident Bob Boynton quickly stepped in and offered to plow for free!! Thanks Bob!!

Peg, although (admittedly) not knowing much about making an ice rink, stated "How hard can it be?"

Peg soon organized a group of volunteers to help with the "dirty work" of daily maintenance including shoveling, scraping, & flooding of the rink. Anyone ever involved in the process knows that the end result is determined by the amount of effort put into the project. Peg and her group should be commended and applauded for their efforts this year.

Dave Lavamaki

Rummage Sale

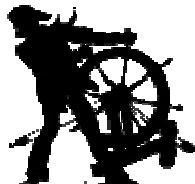
Volunteers are now needed to help with planning the Park Point Rummage Sale. The next Park Point Rummage Sale is June 12 & 13 of 2009. It might be snowy and cold out but soon June will be here. It is easy and fun and a promise it won't take up much of your time. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Charlene at 722-6828

What to do with that old Christmas tree

Although the 12th Street Beach project is nearly completed, the need for erosion control is ongoing. So when that "live" Christmas tree is no longer so lively, bring it down to the S-curve and toss it into the fenced in area beyond the parking lot. "Live" wreaths – without the wire frame – can be disposed of in this way as well.

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 723-3333)

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

City Councilor Sharla Gardner: 724-4701 sharla.gardner@gmail.com

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