



The Breeze

Of Park Point

Upcoming Events

**Park Point
Community Club
October Meeting:
Outside? Maybe a
bonfire? Check the
sign and the website
for updates**

**Lafayette Edible
Garden
No Harvest Pot-lucks,
Dang it!**

**Park Point Garden
Club
October 22nd, 5:00
Time to put the garden
to bed
Contact: JoAnn
Ellison 722-5757
All are Welcome**

**Embrace the
Darkness!
Turn off those
yard lights when
you don't need
them. Look up
and see the stars**

Letter from the Park Point Community to the Mayor and Police Chief (Reply on page 5)

Mayor Emily Larson and Mike Tusken, Duluth Police Department,

This summer Park Point provided much needed relief for both Duluth residents and the many visitors that enjoy our city. Add the effects of the pandemic, and our hot weather and the numbers soared. Increased biking, walking, running, and other outdoor related activities were in evidence as people utilized the amenities that Park Point offers, a residential neighborhood with access to Lake Superior and Superior Bay.

Sadly, what was missing during these busy months was oversight from the city regarding public safety. Ask any resident of Park Point about their top concerns and their reply will include the lack of traffic control. Speeding, racing and the prevalence of passing is at an all-time high. Add inconsistent parking enforcement and additional dangers are posed for those choosing to walk, bike and enjoy outdoor activities on Minnesota Ave and Lake Avenue.

Over the years many Park Point community members have individually attempted to work with the City of Duluth and the Police Department to find solutions that will curb the dangers presented by lack of traffic enforcement. There has been little progress other than informing people to be aware and if concerned, contact the Duluth Police Department. This has proven to be a dead end and in fact there is a miscommunication on what is considered speeding. Residential posted speed is 30 MPH, however, the Duluth Police Department recognizes 40 MPH as the speed limit! It appears we are not all on the same page as to what the community's expectations are and to what the City will respond to.

We are asking for the opportunity to have a community discussion with you Mayor Larson, and Mike Tusken, to find solutions that will make our community safe for both visitors and residents alike.

Public discussions are difficult during this time due to Covid – 19 but we feel that with the technology present today and an agenda that outlines concerns, a constructive conversation could take place to make Park Point safe for all.

Please contact Dawn Buck, president, parkpointcc@gmail.com and Alan Dartanyan, editor, Park Point Breeze, breezeditor@msn.com of the Park Point Community Club Executive Board, to set up the community discussion.

**Respectfully,
Park Point Community Club (PPCC)**

The Breeze

Editor: Alan Dartanyan

breezeditor@msn.com 726-0110

Submissions for the November issue are due by 10/27/20

Park Point Community Club

officers:

President: Dawn Buck

parkpointcc@gmail.com

525-1764

Vice President: Tom Griggs

3429 Minnesota Ave.

Thom0313@gmail.com

Secretary: Sheryl Robins

722 Minnesota Ave.

720-6518

Treasurer: Al Robins

722 Minnesota Ave

720-6518

Committees:

Art Fair: Carla Tamburro

coordinator@parkpointartfair.org

218-348-7338

Rummage Sale: Dave

Lavamaki pointer12@q.com

729-8925

Hospitality:

Diane Gould 727-4067

Ted Buck 525-1764

Lafayette Square Rentals:

Chris Seversen, Parks Permit

Coordinator 218-730-4305

www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration

The Postcard: Dawn buck

parkpointcc@gmail.com

Sunshine: Pam Griggs

pamgriggs101@gmail.com

218-260-6032

Park Point Community Club

P.O. Box 16326

Duluth, MN 55816-0326

www.parkpointcommunityclub.org

President's Report

Hi Neighbors,

Sadly, it's time to put away the toys as Daniel Tiger reminds, "That was fun but now it's done." Spending a lot of time with young children this summer reaffirmed the importance of teaching life's lessons early on, things like the golden rule and the Beatles lyric that became my mantra, "Life is very short, and there's no time for fussing and fighting, my friend." Thank God for Spotify. Here is a reminder for all water lovers and enthusiasts - thank you for your continued stewardship:

Clean watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Dry docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

Toast the fun you had this summer-focus on what you did and not what you didn't do :)

You may have noticed an increase in police presence on Park Point recently. Neighbors asked for help with community health and safety concerns and a meeting with police officers in early June and in mid-July. See *Inundated with beachgoers, Park Pointers call for help* by Brady Slater in the DNT: <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/6523169-Inundated-with-beachgoers-Park-Pointers-call-for-help> The September 15th letter to the Mayor and to the Duluth Police Department that neighbors have been using to convey their safety concerns has resulted in an increased number of police squads down on Park Point. The detailed reply from Lt. Nagorski from the September 15th Letter is on our website. An increased police presence on Park Point was the need/request that I was hearing from Park Pointers all summer long. Thanks to everyone who is willing to connect with the police department and express concerns and make requests. From Lt. Nagorski, "We continually review concerns of the residents of Park Point and formulate enforcement/engagement plans to address those areas of concern." Together everyone achieves more, right? If you see or hear anything suspicious or dangerous, call 911 and file a report. If possible and you won't be putting yourself in danger, take a photo and use your phone to take down a quick voice or written memo so you remember the details.

Sadly, the Park Point Summer Youth Program 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19. Kevin Chederquist was the program's director from 2107-2019 and is hoping to return next summer. Very recently, Kevin's wife, Kristin, died from colon cancer. Kevin's family was very involved with infusing the program with creative energy, new collaborative ideas and additional opportunities for campers. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Kevin, Chris and Jack and their entire family; the Sunshine Committee is sending the family a note on behalf of the PPCC.

We may be gathering outside at Lafayette in October (third Tuesday, Oct. 20 using social distance guidelines), watch the S-Curve sign and your email. If you are not on my PPCC email list and would like to be, please send me a note at parkpointcc@gmail.com. If the weather cooperates, we might have a bonfire, bring your own chair and a mask. Might be fun to connect as best as we can given the challenges of coastal pandemic living.

See you out and about,

Dawn & Bruno, who is growing out his coat for the big chilldown

I received this submission from a fellow Park Pointer, and it gives me an opportunity to remind people that the Breeze welcomes -no CRAVES! – submissions from Park Point residents, be it stories, poems, pictures or commentaries, and I will print as many as space allows.

The Editor

A walk in the neighborhood...

What can be more unassuming than walking your dog? Put your dog on a leash, make sure you have enough poop bags and then out the door. A decision at the side walk, which way to go, left or right. To the left, we almost always walk that way; to the right, not sure if my dog Bingo would like that direction as there are few open spaces to run in. We need some variety so we go right.

The afternoon is pleasant enough. No big winds off either the bay or lake and no rain. The sky is grey. I realize I have overdressed. Not as cold as I thought it was.

Just halfway down the block we see something of interest. A new house being built on the foot print of the old house. The concrete foundation is in, a stack of concrete sidewalk panels leans against a pile of dirt. My thought, “looks like they are going to salvage a few things from the old place. Nice, the English lady who lived there would probably like that.”

Two houses down from there is a concrete planter of a roman figure with flowers growing out of its head. That is interesting. I wonder if the bust is of Caesar and how he would feel about his new look. On the next block we see grape vines loaded with dark purple grapes. Looks like there are enough to make a couple of batches of jelly. Decide not to pick any. I do wonder how sweet they taste.

We come to Lafayette. Wow, the sidewalk is a mess. Weeds growing in the cracks all along the way to the door of the community building. Weeds are my thing. It feels so cleansing to pull them up so I stop to do so. I am on my knees before I realize I do not have my work clothes on. I decide not to make work clothes out of my good jean and stand up.

I tour the community garden. Bingo needs to stay out; he would either eat what is ripe or leave his mark on every planter. What I find is an abundance of everything! I am surprised. I have seen people working in the garden as I have driven by, but I am impressed by the green thumb of my neighbors. There is a great quantity of tomatoes yet on the vine; pumpkins and summer squash are overtaking the space where summer vegetables have been harvested; thyme, rosemary and other herbs still look like they are doing well, and I find a potato patch. I meet Don, one of the members, watering the plants. He tells me they take turns working in the garden. All can harvest the vegetables with the extra produce given to Chum. He is talkative and invites me to pick a couple of tomatoes. I choose two big green ones. Fried green tomatoes were a favorite of my Dad.

Before heading home, I talk with Bob who I have not seen in a while. He is, as always, busy with landscaping projects. We talk about trips to Mexico and about what it is to see ourselves growing older. It is nice to have someone to check in periodically with shared life experiences.

Just before I turn into my driveway, I notice two women pausing to look at something in a backyard. I comment on their curiosity and feel kindred spirits when one replies “Every time I walk, I see something new.” Yes, I think to myself, a walk in the neighborhood can reveal little unexpected discoveries and pleasures all along the way. Thank you, Park Point.

Marie Margitan

News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

Agriertainment continues in the community garden even though autumn is here. Broccoli, lettuce, kale, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, beets, winter squash, and Brussels sprouts plants all continue to produce. The beds of the spent summer crops are getting their annual clean-out. This year we will not be turning the dirt under. Ellie Alspach says this may help prevent weeds from propagating. We'll see about that.

In this past month we enjoyed harvesting and tasting Borries Yellow watermelons. They are an heirloom variety and they grow up to 20 pounds in 80 days. The seeds came from the Seed Savers Exchange. They were delicious. We also tasted our small Korean yellow melons that grew in the compost. They tasted like a cross between a honeydew melon and a pear. These would be great choices to grow in your home gardens next year. We also had some volunteer melons pop up in one of the beds. Ellie thinks they are Black Mountain melons. They mature when the stem turns brown and the spot on the bottom turns from white to yellow and the tendril that attaches it to the vine dries. They can finish maturing in storage. No report yet on their taste.

We sure miss our monthly potluck dinners and meetings – especially in September and October. Those harvest months always brought out the creativity in our members' recipes that we enjoyed sharing with the Park Point community. Let's hope we can all dine together again next year. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

For future reference, The Lafayette Community Garden is located at Lafayette Park, 3016 Minnesota Ave. on Park Point. Coral McDonnell is the contact person for folks interested in our community garden and potluck dinners. She can be contacted at 218- 727-6455, coraljean@charter.net. Our monthly potluck dinners are FREE and open to all Park Pointers. They usually take place at the Lafayette Community Club. Please bring your own plates, silverware, beverage and a dish to share.

Status of Compost Bins:

We welcome the community to contribute to the compost bins inside the community garden at Lafayette Square. Here are the guidelines: we accept kitchen food scraps that are produce - no meat or dairy; we accept leaves – no brush, weeds, needles or big plants. Please bag your donations and set them inside the garden gate. We will take care of the rest.

-Susan Peters

Environmental Report

Birds! In the past two or three years we have seen a major reduction in the number of song birds on the point. This includes everything from hummingbirds to Pigeons. Wrens to Robins and even Piping Plovers. The only bird that has had a major increase has been the Crows. A Crow's favorite food for their nestlings is the baby birds from almost all other nesting birds. The Crows need to be gone. Some people feed them! Please stop! If you want help in dealing with them please call me at 216-727-4067.

Mark your clear windows, many of the birds that are coming through have never seen a window!

Dick Gould

(Response to letter, page 1)

Dear Residents of Park Point,

My name is Chad Nagorski and I currently serve as the East Area Commander for the Duluth Police Department, a position I have held since January of 2015. My area of supervision includes the Park Point neighborhood. The emails you sent to Mayor Larson and Chief Tusken were forwarded to me to address the speeding concerns you have described on Park Point. Before I discuss some of the plans we have for the future, I would like to address some of the work we have done in the past.

Over the past couple of years I have had telephone and in person conversations with Park Point Community Club President Dawn Buck. We have discussed resident concerns on the Point with speeding being one of the primary concerns. I directed two of my Community Officers over the past two years to do increased traffic enforcement on the Point. When I spoke to one of them today he estimated he spent 20 hours in 2019 and approximately 20 more hours since we returned from our COVID-19 schedule in July. He wrote a number of citations for speed with the highest speed being 47 MPH in a 30 MPH zone (the speed limit on Park Point). My other officer estimated he has spent approximately the same amount of hours doing traffic enforcement on the Point. Both stated that the majority of people they have stopped for speeding have been either residents of the Point or work down there. I estimate over the past two years I have spent approximately 2-3 hours a year down there myself with the maximum speed I've seen during that time being 38 MPH. I have also directed patrol squads to do increased enforcement as time permits between regular 911 calls for service. In 2020 during our Toward Zero Death Speed Enforcement wave we directed resources to the Point as well.

In the summer of 2018 based on speed complaints on the Point I had a covert speed study conducted in the 3500 block of Minnesota Ave. During the approximate one week speed study, 10054 vehicles passed by that location with the average speed of the vehicles being 29.70 MPH, the 50th percentile being 30 MPH and the 85th percentile (this is what Traffic Engineers use to determine if a road has the correct speed limit) was 34 MPH. During the summer I also directed Park Rangers to patrol the Point frequently to add another visual deterrent. We also directed our bike patrol to do patrols on the Point with bicycles and one of our side by side ATV's.

In the summer of 2019 a Park Point resident reached out to see if we could place our digital speed trailer in the 3600 block of Minnesota Ave where they agreed to keep the battery charged at night by plugging it in. This trailer was left in this location for the majority of the summer with the review from the resident that they believed it made a difference in traffic speed calming. After removing the speed trailer I had a bi-directional covert speed study conducted in the 3600 block for a week in July. During that time for north bound traffic 6941 vehicles passed by the location with an average speed of 25.36 MPH, the 50th percentile being 25 MPH and the 85th percentile being 30 MPH. For south bound traffic 6871 vehicles passed the location with an average speed of 24.5 MPH, the 50th percentile being 25 MPH and the 85th percentile being 29 MPH. Just after the study our Traffic Engineer and I met with the Park Point resident who reached out to us to discuss the findings of this study who stated they would relay this info to other Point residents. During the summer of 2019 I again directed Park Rangers to do extra patrol along the Point along with our bike officers.

In the spring of 2020 Chief Tusken used DWI forfeiture money to purchase the stationary mounted flashing speed signs to calm traffic and be a visual deterrent to drivers in specific areas of the city that we continue to get speeding complaints on. Unfortunately COVID-19 slowed the process of placing one of the signs on Park Point and canceled our Park Ranger program for the summer. Based on COVID-19 I was reassigned to a patrol crew for approximately 2 months. When I returned to my regular position I reached out to the Park Point resident mentioned in the previous paragraph and Dawn Buck to discuss a location to place one of these signs. Based on analyzing our previous speed studies, it appears that traffic travels at slightly higher speeds north bound on Minnesota Avenue. We discussed placing the sign in the 3100 block of Minnesota Avenue to calm traffic approaching Lafayette Park where a large number of children play. We mutually agreed that this was an acceptable placement but just prior to having the sign placed, Dawn brought to my attention concerns from neighbors in the 4100 block of Minnesota Avenue feeling that speeds in that location may be greater. So in July of this year I had a bi-directional covert speed study conducted for a week in the 4100 block of Minnesota Avenue. During that time for north bound traffic 6905 vehicles passed by the location with an average speed of 30.69 MPH, the 50th percentile being 31 MPH and the 85th percentile being 35 MPH. For south bound traffic 5879 vehicles passed the location with an average speed of 28.29 MPH, the 50th percentile being 28 MPH and the 85th percentile being 32 MPH. I relayed this information to Dawn Buck and asked that she speak with the groups on the Point who had concerns to help determine where the flashing speed sign should be placed that would make the most sense. I am currently waiting for the consensus so we can place the sign. I was informed by Chief Tusken recently that he was able to purchase a second flashing speed sign with DWI forfeiture money that can also be placed on Park Point.

I know this email is long and will take some time to read over and digest but I wanted to make sure you were all aware of the efforts the Duluth Police Department have taken to address your concerns of speeding on the Point. Hopefully this information can be printed in the Breeze so the Park Point Community can work with us to determine the proper placement of these signs. If you have follow up questions or would like to speak further about this, please email or call me. I or one of my staff, will reach out to help address your concern/question. We will continue to direct resources to the Point for the safety of the residents and visitors.

Respectfully, Chad
Lt. Chad Nagorski
East Area Commander

City of Duluth – Police Department

2030 N. Arlington Avenue

Duluth, MN 55811

www.duluthmn.gov

cnagorski@duluthmn.gov

218-730-5656



Len and Lois
 (218) 606-1670 (727) 207-1705
 Park Point Residents/ Musicians
 You're going to like what you see and hear




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*We are a people on the Way to
 knowing, loving, and serving God
 and neighbor!*

Drive-by Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at noon in front of
 St. Andrew's by the Lake.

Form a line of cars on the church side
 of the street and keep yourself and
 your pets in your car. Print your pet's
 name on a large paper and hold it up to
 the window of your car, and the priest
 will give a blessing. Celebrate St.
 Francis and our beloved animal friends!

The Rev. Marta Maddy
 Sunday Eucharist Service: 9:45 a.m.
 standrewsbythelake.org
 2802 Minnesota Ave 218-727-1262
 standrewsbythelakeduluth@gmail.com
 We are on Facebook

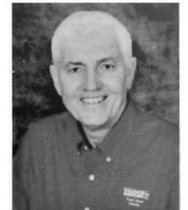


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email simulationwehner@gmail.com

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Thank you

September PPCC Executive Board meeting

The PPCC Executive Board met outside at Lafayette on September 17th. Among the items addressed:

The letter from the Park Point community to the Mayor and Police Chief. A rather lengthy response from Police East Area Commander Chad Negorski, has just been received, and needed a careful reading before any further response is given.

The Art Fair: It's time to begin the preliminary planning for the 2021 Art Fair, is one is to be held. Since that isn't a given, it was decided that we should see how other fairs and events are proceeding, before we decide on our own course of action.

The recreation lane: Along with the cars, there was a great deal of non-motorized traffic on the Point this season. As there is no signage, it was asked if there was some way to establish some rules, so everyone can safely and courteously share the street. Some input from the City will be requested.

An October meeting: As we have received no new guidance from the City as to when we can use the building, we discussed other possibilities for a general meeting. There's always ZOOM, but perhaps an outside meeting, maybe with a bonfire? Stay tuned to the S-curve sign, and check www.parkpointcommunityclub.org for updates.



A pipe spews a slurry of sand and water onto the shore as a bulldozer works to distribute it down the beach. Unfortunately, it didn't go as far as hoped, but it is a start



News from the Erosion and High Water Committee

As most of you have noticed the Beach Nourishment on the North end of Park Point has been completed for this year. Progress was made to just pass 9th St. The beach was built out into the lake and the height of the beach was increased.. Beach Nourishment is only a temporary fix for beach erosion but it is the best solution we have at our disposal at this time.

Beach Nourishment itself is not without its own minor problems. The organic material that is contained in the dredge, when exposed to the air, does give off a foul smell for several days after placement. Fortunately that smell is short lived. Sometime this fall, when the heavy East winds come, the fine sand now on top of the beach will blow around and make a bit of a mess. The bottom line is that those homes in the Beach Nourishment area are much better protected than before.

This committee is committed to pursuing Beach Nourishment being continued next year where it was left off this year.

The committee is working on two other issues. First, we are looking into the health risk from mold and mildew that has become more prevalent in many homes due to more water in basements and crawl spaces. We are also getting a presentation from Public Works on sump pumps. What we can and can't do and what help is available from the City of Duluth.

In the past, before the Covid, we did invite others from Park Point to our meeting. We look forward to the time that we can meet again at the Community Club and get your input.

Respectfully submitted by:

Hamilton Smith Chair

PPCC Erosion and High Water Committee

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 are some helpful contacts

Public Works and Utilities 24 hr. emergency contact numbers:

Natural Gas 730-4100, Streets, Water & Sewer 730-4000

Lift Bridge Supervisor Dave Campbell 723-3387

Community Police Officer Ethan Roe 218-730- 5747 eroe@duluthmn.gov

Dog issues: clane@duluthmn.gov

City Councilor Roz Randorf rrandorf@duluthmn.gov

Quotations from *The Farmer's Mother's Almanac, 2020* by Janne Goldbeck and Paula Jull

October:

Look for a month of deep
gold days. No heavy rains will fall,
though some afternoons may fill with
mist. Early mornings and late evenings
will be filled with light, cold winds, the air
swept clean, transparent. Leaves will drop
suddenly overnight; you will see
again how the winter light enters the
branches of the trees and rearranges
your idea of the sky.

*The Duluth Public Library presents the book *Animal Action ABC* by Karen Pandell*
Wednesday, October 14, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at
Lafayette Park (3016 Minnesota Ave) with Parks Pop-
up Play 9:30 am-11:30 am
Read a picture book page-by-page as you walk
through the park. Take home a free book, craft kit, and
other activities to continue enjoying the story together
at home. This socially-distanced version of storytime
will get your family reading and moving. The Parks
Department will be present in the morning for a Pop-up
Play with equipment you can rent for free.

It will be a fun community event that we would love to
get the word out about!
Thank You!

Heidi Harrison
Duluth Public Library
Youth Services
phone: 218-730-4200, option 4
email: hharrison@duluthmn.gov

