



# The Breeze of Park Point

## A Look Back on Park Point's History

Sand and wind, floating islands, and "The Gales of November..." and January, February and March. Plus, a long history of wrestling over water levels, wet basements and big-time erosion problems. Excerpted, once again, from *The Minnesota Point Time Line* (1999) - Jan Olson, Editor

1754 - French and British struggle to control what is now known as North America; Ojibwe generally side with the French, who are interested in furs more than land; English clear away forest, build homes and drive Indians from their land through the mid-1780's. By the early 1830's, the fur trade collapses and most trading posts are abandoned.

1856 - Fremont Island, essentially a bog located just off the shoreline of today's Bayfront Park (ead), is surveyed and platted, along with the two other Minnesota Point town sites of Lower Duluth and Middleton. In 1870, the island breaks loose from its moorings and floats over a period of days out through the newly dug ship canal. City fathers with a sense of humor plant an American flag on it, "as a means of identification and...protection of its homeland when it reaches foreign soil." The island's demise is complete when it breaks up along the Point during northeasterly winds.

1871 - Duluth is ordered to build a dike from Rice's Point to approx. 24th Street on Minnesota Point to help prevent Superior Entry water diversion; this cuts off ship passage between Duluth & Superior for a year. Successive storms breach the dike, converting it into a weak dam that soon collapses - likely with the help of a "mysterious explosion" that blows up part of it. In 1873, Congress authorizes \$100K for removing it and dredging the harbor, a project that continues over several years.

1892 - Gale force winds blow the lighthouse over at the canal, cause some Point homes to move 15-20 feet.

1911 - James E. Ten Eyck, one of the world's finest scullers, is hired by the Duluth Boat Club as its coach. [Ten Eyck had previously coached for both the US Naval Academy and Syracuse University, where he and his crews captured ten National Championships (ead)]

1914 - Ten Eyck's coaching skills shine, as the DRC earns national recognition by winning five events in Philadelphia. An April storm sinks the steel steamer Benjamin Noble. While it is unknown precisely where she sank, wreckage appears near Oatka Beach the same day.

1918 - Episcopalian Church opens on the Point. Because of difficulty getting across the bridge, Catholic priests offer Sunday Mass in homes and in a cottage acquired specifically for that purpose.

1922 - Park Point Catholics purchase the Duluth Little Theater - formerly a Seventh Day Adventist Church (ead) - then drag it across the ice from its site adjacent to St. Luke's hospital after first sawing it in half. The first mass is celebrated on June 26th, a practice that continued at that location for the next 94 years. A February blizzard with 32" of snow in one day and 15-ft. drifts cuts the Point off from the city when the bridge carriage breaks down.

1939 - C. Henry Gordon buys low, swampy property at 19th Street; fills it in and builds a gas station. [Subsequently the site of Clem's Market and, later, Bay Side Market (ead).]

1943 - A March storm with gale force winds and hard-packed snow closes Minnesota Ave. for over a week; steady winds of 65mph gust to near 100 mph, burying homes and creating 30-ft. drifts. The street is not completely open for 17 days, and city buses travel the windswept beach.

1954 - A petition requesting reinstatement of Mr. Doyle as Special Policeman on the Point is discussed at a PPCC meeting. Mr. Doyle was no longer permitted by the Police Dept. to drive for reasons unspecified, and there was some question as to the efficacy of a policeman who couldn't drive. At least one club member felt that, with instruction, the officer's driving could improve. Club votes for his reinstatement.

1959 - Sanitary sewer from 20th to the Recreation Area is rebuilt. Sally Thompson and David Hom receive City summer playground awards for having earned the highest number of athletic points.

1962 - Club attempts to block the dumping of dredge spoils between 12th & 25th Streets. Residents from the bridge to 12th want it to replenish eroded beach those from 12th-25th do not. City Attorney rules that disposal is OK.

*continued on page 5*

### **Park Point Art Fair Committee Meeting Monday, November 13th**

7:00 p.m.

Contact: Carla Tamburro  
428-1916

### **Park Point Garden Club Thursday, November 16th**

7:00 p.m.

Contact: Liz Mackay  
722-1834

### **Lafayette Edible Garden Sunday, November 19th, 5:00 p.m. monthly potluck dinner & meeting**

### **Park Point Community Club Meeting**

Tuesday, November 21st,

6:30 p.m. Coffee Social

7:00 p.m. PPCC monthly meeting

Guest Speaker: Kate Van Daele,  
City of Duluth Planning Dept.

### **Canal Park Planning Process**

## The Breeze

**Managing Editor:**

**Natalija Walbridge**

Submissions for the December issue are due by Monday, 11/27/17.

Send to: [ppbreezeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ppbreezeeditor@gmail.com)

## **Park Point Community Club Officers:**

**President: Dawn Buck**

[parkpointcc@gmail.com](mailto:parkpointcc@gmail.com)

525-1764

**Vice President: Tom Griggs**

3429 Minnesota Ave.

[Thomg0313@gmail.com](mailto:Thomg0313@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](mailto:coordinator@parkpointartfair.org)

218-428-1916

**Rummage Sale:**

**Dave Lavamaki**

[pointer12@q.com](mailto:pointer12@q.com)

729-8925

**Environmental: Dick Gould**

727-4067

**Hospitality:**

**Diane Gould**

727-4067

**Ted Buck**

525-1764

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**Missy Steichen**

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**Park Point Community Club**

**P.O. Box 16326**

**Duluth, MN 55816-0326**

[www.parkpointcommunityclub.org](http://www.parkpointcommunityclub.org)

## Letter from the PPCC President

Hi Neighbors,

My high school anatomy and physiology teacher, Mrs. Smith, had a saying she used often about disease, health and the effects and perils of "not enough water, too much water or water in the wrong place." Driving to work yesterday, her words came to me again.

We love the water. We love looking at it, playing in and on it. Water is why many of us live down here surrounded by our beloved dynamic bodies of water. Right along with the pleasures and beauty of the water, the rising lake levels bring damage, loss and the stress of unpredictability. We love it, then we curse it. When will the levels recede and what will next season bring? How might we prepare? Listening to the news brings the harsh realities of torched communities in fire-ravaged areas of California and the vast devastation and suffering that come with hurricanes. While we have our own issues of "too much water and water in the wrong places..." dare I say it? Could be a lot, lot worse. If you have mitigated a water problem successfully, or have a suggestion or recommendation that you might be willing to share with neighbors, please send it and I will pass it along via the Breeze and our website. I occasionally get a question about what to do or who might help, so your ideas and solutions would be very helpful. Thank you!

A big thank you to Wendy Grethen, who came down to present on noteworthy Park Point history following our regular October meeting. If you were wondering about the "Diablo Dip" on Park Point, you missed out if you left the meeting early. Wendy will be at Lafayette on December 9th for "Get to the Point" Art and Gift Fair, so you might ask her about the Diablo tidbit - some crazy stuff has been done on our fair island! I am learning more about it every day through presentations like Wendy's.

Thanks to Duncan Schwensohn, the Project Engineer for upcoming bridge repairs, for checking in with our community; his email is [dschwensohn@DuluthMN.gov](mailto:dschwensohn@DuluthMN.gov), if you have questions. Duncan has agreed to inspect the tunnel before the January bridge repairs begin to ensure safe travels during single-lane delays. We were happy to meet Aerial Lift Bridge Supervisor David Campbell at the October meeting; he stopped in to describe the proposed extension of scheduled bridge lifts. Shawn McMahon, from SEH, gave a short presentation on Sky Harbor Airport progress. Their newsletter is posted on the PPCC website.

Have you noticed the bright lights on the dredge? I have observed these blinding lights and received a note from a neighbor seeking relief from them. Any ideas? Also, is the 7 a.m. horn from a Superior factory something that began this year? There are a few horns of the same tone on a daily basis; any ideas who this is and what they mean?

The PPCC membership voted to increase annual dues from five to ten dollars, starting January 1st, and also expressed a desire to increase the number of Park Pointers participating in club activities and community-minded endeavors. With January comes our annual membership drive - hope you might consider joining the Club. Together, everyone achieves more.

See you out about on our saturated shores,  
Dawn & Klaus (canine companion)

## Lafayette Rentals

Lafayette is a great place to hold weddings, reunions, parties, meetings, workshops, etc...

Rental fees are as follows:

up to 50 people - \$100.00

50-100 people - \$200.00

100-125 people - \$300.00

*There is a damage deposit of \$100.00, which is refundable, after cleaning & inspection.*

Hours available are 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Contact: Missy LePage at  
218-208-9545 or by e-mail at  
[ppccdih@gmail.com](mailto:ppccdih@gmail.com)

## PPCC Meeting Notes October 2017

The monthly Park Point Community Club meeting was called to order on October 17th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. by President Dawn Buck.

The scheduled business agenda was suspended to accommodate a speaker from SEH, Inc. regarding the Sky Harbor Relocation project and two speakers from the City of Duluth regarding the upcoming Aerial Lift Bridge resurfacing project and possible extension of the 30-minute lift schedule for the summer of 2018.

**Shawn McMann from SEH, Inc.** handed out the monthly Sky Harbor newsletter that keeps us informed as to the past, present and future work schedule for this project. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the Park Point Community website. Phase 1 should be completed by Christmas time.

**Duncan Schwensohn, Senior Engineer** with the City of Duluth, spoke on the upcoming winter project involving resurfacing of the Aerial Lift Bridge deck. Pack rust has been noticed on and beneath the deck of the bridge, prompting the winter project to eliminate this rust before it worsens. The job is scheduled to start around 1/22/2018 and be completed before 3/2/2018. Traffic will be reduced to one lane throughout the project, and lights will be provided to keep the flow of traffic moving in both directions. The driving lane will be reduced to 11 feet, which is still wide enough to accommodate all emergency vehicles, but they may have to work with some private carriers when it comes to over-size vehicles. LSB, Inc. has been awarded the contract, which will include rebuilding sidewalks. Current sidewalks were made without expansion joints, resulting in some buckling.

Another speaker from the City was **Dave Campbell, Lift Bridge Supervisor**. He told us he is working on a proposal to extend the summer 30-minute scheduled lift times for small craft to be in effect from May 1st thru October 31st, versus Memorial Day to Labor Day, more realistically reflecting the summer boating season. The US Coast Guard has the final say.

### Letters

Dawn reported receiving a letter from the family of August's drowning victims, thanking the PPCC for its continued show of support for them at their time of great loss.

### Minutes from 9/19/2017

A correction was requested by Bruce Kleven to restate the motion made at that meeting. Instead of the minutes showing a replacement motion, he asked that the motion be listed more accurately as a new motion. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as they appeared in the Breeze, with the correction listed above. Membership votes were all ayes.

### Treasurer's Report - Al Robins

Beginning Balance	8/1/2017	\$24,785
Ending Balance	8/31/2017	\$23,040

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Membership votes were all ayes.

### Committee Reports

#### Art Fair - Carla Tamburro

Total Revenue from the 2017 Art Fair	\$30,300
Total expenses from the 2017 Art Fair	\$23,700
Net Profit	\$ 6,600

Jake Kapsner presented the proposed 2018 budget for the Art Fair on Carla's behalf. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 Art Fair budget as proposed. A first vote to approve the budget was taken following questions and discussion; membership votes were all ayes. A second and final vote to approve the budget will be taken at the November PPCC meeting.

### Breeze - Natalija Walbridge

The Breeze advertised last month for someone to do an in-depth story about water levels here in Duluth, talking with various entities that hold at least some responsibility for helping to maintain Great

Lakes levels in such a way as to cause the least possible damage to property. If someone wants to delve into these issues further, such a story would be welcomed for publication in the Breeze.

### Environmental Committee - Dick Gould

See issues of the Breeze for monthly environmental news.

### Hospitality Committee - Diane Gould and Ted Buck

Thank you Diane for providing nourishment for our meetings, and pears from your own garden! They are appreciated.

### Neighborhood Watch - All Present

Nothing new reported.

### Program Committee - David Poulin

Wendy Grethen was scheduled to speak following the PPCC meeting. She will present her film footage and historical information on the early days of Minnesota Point.

### Rummage Sale - David Lavamaki

Nothing new reported.

### Summer Youth Program - Sally Buck and Rhonda Strum

The youth program was a success this summer as reported by the participants, parents and leaders.

### Sunshine Committee - Pam Griggs

Two sympathy cards and two get-well cards were sent last month.

### Old Business

Gary Glass and Dennis Hoelscher are working on a way to better **inform people about rip tides** and how we can better identify and warn people about staying safe. They are gathering information about how this plan could be implemented.

**Fall Fest** was a 'good day.' Lots of people, food, etc. made it the success that it was, and numerous people participated in bingo and softball.

**Tom Rauschenfels spoke for the Duluth Rowing Club.** Their rowing season has come to an end, and was very successful. All "Learn to Row" classes were full; they even had to turn people away. Their fund-raising goal of \$1,000,000 has reached \$880,000 to date. Costs associated with meeting City guidelines, in exchange for variances received, have exceeded their original plans. They include the planting of trees and other landscaping - with varieties specified by the City - and the installation of a "French drain," the stated purpose of which is cooling stormwater runoff before it reaches the Bay.

### New Business

The Executive Board made a motion to increase the yearly membership fees from \$5 to \$10. A motion was made and accepted to increase the yearly fees. Membership votes were mostly ayes, with several nays. Motion carried, by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Membership votes were all ayes.

Submitted by Sheryl Robins

### Reminder for Snowbirds

On your list of things to do before you go, don't forget to make arrangements for snow removal! Duluth City Ordinance requires that ice and any snowfall exceeding 2" be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours, whether you're in residence or not. "Community" extends through the winter months.

It's OK to torture the rest of us with your Facebook photos of sunny beaches and sailing on an unfrozen bay...so long as you take care of your snow removal obligations before you go. Have a good time while you're gone, drive safely, and your summertime friends will be happy to welcome you back next spring!

## News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

On Sunday, October 15th, we broke bread together at our monthly potluck dinner. We had a great turnout: 38 people. We saw a video about the Park Point Summer Youth program this past summer presented by Karen Boynton, who was the co-coordinator. We also learned about freezing herbs from guest chef Arlene Coco: simply fold leaves of herbs in aluminum foil and seal air-tight. Herbs stored in the freezer in this manner keep until next summer, when fresh herbs are available again. Ellie Alspach also shared her tip about preserving herbs in salt: about 3 cups of fresh herbs plus 1/2 cup salt that has been processed to a granular form in a food processor or blender. Keep refrigerated.

Don't miss Sunday, November 19th, when we break bread again and meet Dr. Njoki Kamau, an Associate Professor at UMD. Born and raised on a small family mixed farm in Kenya, she teaches a course at UMD entitled, "Gender, Globalization and Food," in which she traces food from seed to table. She came to teach this course when she found out that some of her colleagues could not tell her where their food came from, nor how it was grown. Each autumn, she escorts her students to our garden to learn about sustainability.

All Park Pointers are invited. For more information, contact Coral @727-6455.

### WANTED: Your Leaves

It is time to fill our compost bins with leaves to make next year's compost. As you rake up your yard this autumn, please fill bags with your chemical-free leaves and deposit them inside the community garden fence at Lafayette Square.

### Upcoming Events:

Sunday, November 19th, 5 p.m. - monthly potluck dinner and meeting.

Sunday, December 17th, 5 p.m. - holiday party, potluck dinner and meeting.

Sunday, January 21st, 5 p.m.- monthly potluck dinner and meeting.

Submitted by Susan Peters





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**Dec. 2 Get It Local** Buy Local from artisans  
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**Dec. 9 Get to the Point**  
Lafayette Community Ctr 3026 Minn.  
FMI 525-5098 [www.wendyupnorth.com](http://www.wendyupnorth.com)



## Progress on the Recreation Area Dune Blow-hole

Five levels of fencing donated for the remediation project of the sand-dune blow-hole, just north of the Recreation Center at 5000 Minnesota Avenue, have now been installed to slow down the wind erosion of beach sand.

The worst conditions for wind erosion to occur are in the Fall and Winter when the sand is dry and the winds stronger. Evidence of success can already be seen by the growing accumulation of sand near the fencing and new growth of grass where trampling has been stopped. The task now is to keep the the fencing intact from storm and vandal damage over the long term, so that the dune grass is allowed to re-grow. Stabilization of the pathway is planned by laying down used carpeting, as was done at the street-end at 31st Street, demonstrating success of this approach.

The combination of fencing and carpet-defined pathways over the dune areas for tourist traffic to and from the beach will hopefully result in a longterm solution, re-growing dune-grass and rebuilding of natural sand dunes controlling wind erosion.

Photos show five rows of fencing installed, and a close-up shows new grass beginning to grow.

**Update:** Without dunes for protection, storm driven waves (10/27/17) washed away protection for forests and property. Repairs now needed before winter begins. Please send donations; they're tax deductible.

Volunteer efforts donated by members of the Minnesota Point Preservation Society, A 501c3 organization. Submitted by Gary Glass, Co-Chair, 218-391-4242



## A Look Back on Park Point's History continued...

1965 - March blizzard strands three students, seven teachers and the school engineer at Park Point School overnight; kindergartners are linked by a rope and sent home in a human chain under supervision of police.

1972 - Heavy rains in a 36-hr. period flood a portion of Minnesota Ave., filling basements. Richard Nixon declares Duluth a federal disaster area, due to city-wide damage. Resident John LaForge receives a response from the Corps of Engineers regarding status of their erosion studies, which to this point have indicated that the canal piers themselves "might be a factor contributing to erosion" and that the Superior Entry may also contribute to the problem by preventing material which might normally move in a NW direction from reaching the problem areas. Corps studies have also concentrated upon developing a series of "groins" perpendicular to the shoreline. LaForge responds to the letter with his own, noting that he is "less than amused over the lack of progress...(solving) a very serious erosion problem."

1976 - Opinion handed down by Federal Judge James Doyle indicates that the Corps of Engineers is legally responsible for high water levels and placing responsibility on the Corps to compensate for damage. Some Point residents petition the Corps for "beach nourishment" between the bridge and 12th St.

1978 - High waves breach the Point in two locations. The DNR reiterates that a law exists regarding blowing sand and the moving of sand from the sunes and beach; a permit is required whenever sand is moved and failure to comply can result in a \$500 fine and/or 30 days in jail.

1979 - A restroom building and docks are being constructed in the Recreation Area. Park Pt. School expects its fall enrollment to include only 4 kindergartners, 5 first graders, 9 second graders and 12 third-graders.

1980 - City Engineer determines High Water Mark at 603.9 feet, and the Regional Flood level at 604.5 feet; these marks to be used in the new Water Management Ordinance. A new storm sewer lift-pump is being installed at 18th St.; it is to pump water from the street during heavy rains and deposit it in the nearby woods before it flows into the Bay.

1981 - Virginia Soetebier sets up a library at the School Center. Residents are asked to donate books; by later in the year, the collection is up to 900 volumes.

1984 - A new Brownie Troop forms on the Point, with Sue Slattery and Char Willis as troop leaders. Two years later, Betsy Warnygora starts a Girl Scout Troop for girls in the 4th-6th grades.

Notes selected and edited respectfully by Ellen Dunlap



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

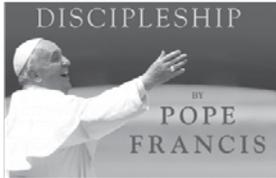
St. Andrew's Day, Thursday, November 30  
5:30 Bagpipes and Kirkin of the Tartans, followed by dinner.



December:

**Journey with Pope Francis and the Joy of Discipleship**

A three-part series in December, taught by Sister Pauline Micke. Marta will lead the series.



Wednesday, December 6, 13, 20  
Begins at 5:30 p.m. with a simple supper, or come at 6 for discussion.

All are welcome to attend.

*As long as I am alive, there is good work for me to do.*

**The Rev. Marta Maddy**

[standrewsbythelake.org](http://standrewsbythelake.org)

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Breeze Editor & Park Point Neighbors:

At the August meeting of the Park Point Community Club, a member asked the question: "What more can be done to prevent visitor drownings on our Lake Superior beach?"

Is it possible to drive to any number of entry points to the Beach, find a place to park, and walk to the beach, yet not observe a single warning sign anywhere along the way stating that the Lake waters are dangerous, and where drownings have occurred? The answer is yes. There are no warning signs displayed, except for an electronic sign at 12th St., solar powered, explaining flag meanings and notices. The electronic sign was off on Aug 10th, 2017, and red flags were up on all four flag poles.

Lake waters are always dangerous, even when calm and flat. More danger is present during storms, when the water is rough and white, and large waves crash on the shoreline, resulting in under-tows and rip currents. These conditions are especially attractive to body surfers during warm water conditions in August and September.

News of the August drownings flashed back a memory of Jerry Gasper, when we were third grade classmates at Park Point Elementary School. He and a friend were on a raft that blew out into the Lake during a strong off-shore wind on Friday, September 3rd, 1948. They became frightened, jumped in, and Jerry didn't make it back to the shore at 39th St., where he lived. He drowned at age 7. There were no search and rescue agencies available to save him, as there are today.

Visitors driving to Barkers Island, in Superior, are greeted by several large signs stating, "Dangerous Waters - No Swimming. Drownings have occurred off Barker's Island." [See photo below.] Perhaps similar signs could be displayed on Park Point at the entry pathways to the Beach Park. Some could be located at the exits of the parking lots at the Recreational Center, where all visitors must pass to get to the pathways leading to the beach. There are no such warning signs now, as you can see below.

Since millions of visitors come to Duluth every year to experience the high quality aquatic environment of Lake Superior, why are they not warned of the dangerous water conditions which are always present? If the solar powered electronic sign were hard-wired on, then warnings of lake conditions could be updated 24/7 and available continuously, all year long.

Gary Glass 218-391-4242  
1140 Minnesota Ave.  
Member, Park Point and Lakeside-Lester Park Community Clubs



## Thank You Note from the Fuglie Family



Sometimes when life seems empty and we feel alone, we discover the importance of kindness from others. Thank you for being a light during a dark and difficult time. Your kindness means so very much. Lillian will never be forgotten.

The Family of  
Lillian Elizabeth Fuglie

Dear,  
and Community, thank  
you so much for all of  
your kindness during this  
horrible experience. I am  
grateful to your entire  
community. Love, Maggie's  
Derek, Maggie &  
Eris

# *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 Officers: Sargent Gayle Holton 730-5628 (cell 390-2266),  
or email [gholton@duluthmn.gov](mailto:gholton@duluthmn.gov).

Dog issues: [clane@duluthmn.gov](mailto:clane@duluthmn.gov)

City Councilor Em Westerlund: (218) 355-1137 [ewesterlund@duluthmn.gov](mailto:ewesterlund@duluthmn.gov)

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## Free Listings for Park Point Snow Services

For the winter issues of the Breeze, we are planning  
**free** listings of Park Point neighbors who offer  
snow removal services.

If you are a service provider, please send your name, rates and  
contact information to: [ppbreezeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ppbreezeeditor@gmail.com)

*Submissions due by 11/27/17.*

### READERS YOUNG AND LESS YOUNG

Are you be interested in a Park Point Book Club?  
Please come to Lafayette Community Center on  
Thursday November 16 th from 4-5 p.m.  
and let's make a plan together! All are welcome.

Would we meet once a month? four times a year?  
afternoon or evenings? A lot to consider.

If you are interested but can't make the planning meeting  
just call and share your thoughts with  
Joanne 722-5757 or Coral 727-6455.



## DENFELD MUSIC CONCERTS

**Veterans Concert:** Friday Nov. 10th @ 7 PM

**Holiday Concert:** Monday, Dec. 18 @ 7 PM

**Tickets:** \$5 general / \$3 seniors and students

Tickets can be purchased at the door with cash or check.

**For questions contact:**

Josh Lehigh 336-8830 ext. 3051