



# *The Breeze*

## *Of Park Point*

### Upcoming Events

**Park Point  
Community Club  
November Meeting:  
Stay tuned, we're  
working on it!**

**Lafayette Edible  
Garden  
Nothing Scheduled at  
this time**

**Park Point Garden  
Club  
No meeting, No craft  
Cleaning of garden  
went well  
Contact:  
JoAnn Ellison  
727-5757**

**“Enjoyed” our  
little Winter  
preview.**

**Now preparing  
for the Real  
Thing!**

### **President's Report**

Hi Neighbors,

Lafayette Square will be closing after the election and this is very sad news for our community. The City has assured us that they will take great care in winterizing the historic building and will allow access, if requested, to the Club's archives which are stored in the office off of the conference room. Once the pandemic is “under control” we will look forward to gathering once again at Lafayette-PPCC committees, LCEG potlucks, PP Summer Youth Program, DSSA, Garden Club, Duluth Boat Club, Erosion High Water Committee, Good Dog Puppy Training, other non-profit organizations who strengthen our community all meet at Lafayette. We will look forward to the new bathrooms opening again, hopefully year- round in the future as intended, for the thousands of visitors who enjoy the beach, the recreation lane and the amenities at Lafayette. The letter from the City that outlines building closures is posted on the website, [www.parkpointcommunityclub.org](http://www.parkpointcommunityclub.org). Stay tuned on the opening date for Lafayette

We held our first ever PPCC Zoom meeting last week! Thank you to everyone who was willing to give it a go! We met the Sky Harbor Airport manager, Kevin Lyons, new to the job in 2020- welcome & thank you for telling us a bit about yourself and updates on the airport. We also met two new neighbors via the meeting, welcome Brian and Heather. I want to give a shout out to our new neighbor, Rob, who saw us struggling a bit with the boat lift removal and promptly came over to lend a hand in Park Point neighborly style.

My long down coat came out a bit early, pre-Halloween pumpkin carving! Twenty one degrees with a wind chill in the low single digits this morning was not a source of happiness on my morning dog walk until I reached the frozen shoreline on the lake. Riding a bike along the frozen beach is something I have enjoyed for quite a few years. I don't have a fat tire bike and use a regular mountain bike, usually around Thanksgiving time and one time, I had a great ride to the canal on Dec. 25th with two of my daughters. The first two beach bike riders I ever saw were two ladies on “regular” bikes with baskets near 38th in the late 1990's. I had recently moved back to Duluth from Beavercreek, OH, and was walking my two Rottweilers, Stella and Kurtis. I had been away from Duluth since 1984 and was basking in returning to the beauty of the lake and walking on the beach a lot. I was living in Lakeside and would come down to walk the dogs and then have tea with my grandma at her place on 32nd. The biker ladies in the 90's weren't speaking English and were bundled up in long coats and scarves, no lycra or spandex. I said hi and they gave a smile and friendly wave. I was so excited about the idea of beach riding & I thought these ladies were on to something brilliant! Fast forward to 2006 when I moved to Park Point and remembered the adventurous ladies biking on the beach on bikes that looked like they were off to the market. Note: you must stop, grab your bike and seize the opportunity or you might miss out! For me, pandemic living has led to what I am calling the silver lining syndrome. The Oct. frigid air is bringing early beach biking- excellent- who cares how cold it is! I was thankful that we had aired the bikes' tires early in the fall and pulled out an old Schwinn with mountain bike tires that would work for the chilly outing. Bruno's fur has grown out; he was ready for the crisp air and luckily he does not like to carry a piece of driftwood in his mouth. My previous canine companion, (continued next page)

## ***The Breeze***

Editor: Alan Dartanyan

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Submissions for the December issue are due by 11/27/20

### **Park Point Community Club**

#### **officers:**

**President: Dawn Buck**

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

525-1764

**Vice President: Tom Griggs**

3429 Minnesota Ave.

[Thom0313@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:coordinator@parkpointartfair.org)

218-348-7338

**Rummage Sale: Dave**

**Lavamaki** [pointer12@q.com](mailto: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](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration)

**The Postcard: Dawn buck**

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

**Sunshine: Pam Griggs**

[pamgriggs101@gmail.com](mailto:pamgriggs101@gmail.com)

218-260-6032

**Park Point Community Club**

**P.O. Box 16326**

**Duluth, MN 55816-0326**

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

(president's report continued)

Klaus, would pick up driftwood and inconveniently place them in the bike's spokes! Bruno was a willing and eager companion and we enjoyed about an hour on a peaceful silver lining beach tour.

In early Oct. I heard from several very lucky neighbors who were nearly hit by a reckless driver who rolled his car onto the sidewalk near 34th. The course of events was drastically changed by their friendly dog who had literally pulled them from harm's way by moving them down the street just a little bit to greet neighbors who were putting out their garbage can. Witnesses report that the speeding car was attempting to pass a pick-up truck, rear ended the truck then flipped three times before landing right where neighbors had been walking seconds before. Thankfully, no serious injuries occurred in this accident. Please be alert and careful when walking, wear reflective gear, and dial 911 with a detailed description to report reckless driving. The police department has agreed to meet with Park Pointers about ongoing traffic and safety observations, concerns and possible solutions here on the recreational mecca of Park Point. Thank you for taking the time to report what you are seeing in our community. Here's to good dogs, kind neighbors and silver linings!

See you out and about this Fall

Dawn & Bruno, fuzzy giant schnauzer canine companion

**Editor's note:** I gave PPCC President Dawn Buck "top billing" this month, as she's the one who's been holding us together these past few months. And I wanted to put her "silver linings" above the disappointing letter from the city found below.

#### **Dear Duluth Parks and Recreation User,**

The City of Duluth Property, Parks, and Libraries Department has begun to carefully reopen a small number of Parks and Recreation buildings that have been mostly or entirely closed since the onset of the pandemic in the spring. This initial phase of reopening will be limited to three buildings – Morgan Park Community Center, Washington Center Gymnasium, and Portman Community Center – that will be managed, used, and cleaned in accordance with disease prevention plans consistent with federal and state guidelines. The City is reopening these buildings with the aim of establishing a balance between providing the Parks and Recreation services and facilities that will be increasingly important for the community's emotional well-being this winter and restricting the kinds of indoor activities that contribute to disease spread. To check on availability of reservations at Portman or Morgan Park, as well as outdoor park spaces and pavilions, check our Reservations page: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/reservations-permits/> or contact Chris Severson, Permits Coordinator, at 730-4305 or [cseverson@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cseverson@duluthmn.gov). To inquire about reservations at the Washington Center Gym, as well as other athletic facilities, please contact Nick Budnik, Recreation Specialist, at 730-4314 or [nbudnik@duluthmn.gov](mailto:nbudnik@duluthmn.gov). Please note that parties that rent Parks facilities will be required to have a City-approved disease prevention plan outlining how they will take action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 consistent with federal, state, and city guidelines. Templates for such plans are available through our Parks Division or groups may submit plans in their own format. If you would like to register for one of our recreation programs, the schedule and registration information is available at: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/programs-events/general-programs/> Fall programs through the end of the year are (continued next page)

(continued from page 2)

available for registration now. Each program has been adapted to meet federal and state guidelines. In addition to the three City-managed Parks and Recreation buildings that will remain open, the City will continue to permit organizations that lease City buildings and have City-approved disease prevention plans to open to the public so long as they strictly comply with plan requirements. Parks buildings that will remain closed through the winter include Grant Community Center, Lafayette Community Center, Harrison Community Center, Wade Stadium, and Wheeler Fieldhouse. City staff have begun winterizing and locking these buildings for the season. These buildings need to remain closed because a City workforce temporarily reduced by layoffs is insufficient to carry out the intensified pandemic cleaning regimen in all Parks buildings. Please note that public access to Parks buildings may be further restricted if disease spread continues to intensify. Should that prove necessary, reservations will be cancelled and payments fully refunded.

Sincerely Yours,

Jim Filby Williams

Director, Property, Parks, and Libraries Department

### **Park Point Community Club October Minutes**

The October 20th, 2020 Park Point Community Club meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by club president, Dawn Buck. This was the first virtual meeting and went off very well. The first portion of the business meeting was suspended due to Kevin Lyons from Sky Harbor Airport who joined the meeting to introduce himself as the person now in charge of Sky Harbor Airport. His purpose will be to get the airport more functioning.

As there have been no minutes for several months, there was no need for approval of prior minutes.

#### **Treasurer's report** - Al Robins

Beginning balance - September 1st, 2020 \$14,285

Ending balance - September 30th, 2020 \$13,774

There were limited number of committee heads at the meeting. The following committees that reported on their particular committee will be mentioned as to their activities:

#### **Art Fair** Carla Tamburro.

Due to uncertainty of Covid 19, no concrete plans have been made for next year's Art Fair.

#### **Breeze** Alan Dartanyan

Alan said all is going well with the Breeze paper. He said he appreciates people sending in articles for the Breeze.

#### **Watch Committee**

Hamilton Smith of the Erosion Committee spoke briefly on the beach nourishment project. The project completed the area from the Aerial Life Bridge to 9th St. The project has stopped for this year and will continue next summer.

#### **Unfinished business:**

The speeding issue on the Point has not been resolved. Dawn thanked those people who signed and sent a copy of the letter to the Mayor and Chief Tusken.

#### **New Business**

The City of Duluth has closed Lafayette Square for the winter. The building has been winterized and will not be available during the winter months.

Bentleyville will be available except on a different format. Instead of walking through the display, due to Covid virus, there will be a drive through option. This was brought up for discussion as there could be traffic concerns in the Canal Park area.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by Sheryl Robins, PPCC Secretary

## News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

This past growing season we planted something new to our garden: sunchokes, aka Jerusalem artichokes. Growing them is a real commitment because once planted, they keep coming back and are hard to get rid of. They were the big showy plants growing on the fence-line on the street-side corner of the garden. They are valued for the many ways they can be eaten both raw and cooked. So we looked forward to trying some new dishes using them.

However, these big knobby tubers have a reputation for producing lots of gas in our digestive systems and there was much talk about how to avoid that from happening. One gardener did a little research in food scientist Harold McGee's book *The Curious Cook*, (1990). "He explains the Jerusalem artichoke in great detail in the chapter titled, *Taking the Wind out of the Sunroot*. His conclusions are: (a) the quantities of the responsible carbohydrate are somewhat dissipated during cold storage of a month or more; (b) 'about half of the remaining indigestibles can be removed by boiling in a large volume of water for 15 minutes;' and finally (c), 'a larger proportion can be broken down into fructose by cooking for 24 hours.'" To date, no one in our group has experimented with those techniques and reported back.

Along with the sunchokes, we also harvested Kuri and butternut squash, horseradish and huge pumpkins. I was the lucky recipient of one of the white pumpkins weighing in at about 12 pounds. I brought it home, cleaned it up and stuffed it with a filling of aromatic vegetables, apples, whole grain bread and Mount Royal's apple sausage. After roasting in the oven for about 90 minutes, I had a feast for the senses. Yes, it took time to make, but the result was a fabulous autumn meal that made 12 servings. Plus, the house smelled fabulous while the pumpkin was baking.

We miss our monthly potluck dinners and informative meetings. But at some point life will get back to normal and we can dine together again. Until then, we pray everyone will 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. When we have them, our monthly potluck dinners are FREE and open to all Park Pointers. They usually take place at the Lafayette Community Club.

### 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

Susan's  
Stuffed  
pumpkin



### **Environmental Report**

If you drive down to the end, be careful. There are deer there eating the apples from the trees between 43rd and the first curve. They don't seem to have much concern for cars.

I have been told that the DNR has removed nine Beaver from the point. If you are having problems or concerns about Beaver, Geese, Fox or any other wildlife give me a call and I will try to help.

I am very concerned about Beaver being relocated at this time of the year. Their survival is very doubtful.

Dick Gould

### **A Rebuttal to the Environmental Report in the October Breeze, Lamenting the demise of songbirds on Park Point**

There are many reasons that could result in a reduction of songbirds on Park Point. One factor may be the pair of Merlins living on the point the last few summer. I often heard their call while out walking. Merlins are carnivores. Their favorite prey is small species of birds, which they usually catch while flying. In fact, the vast majority of their diet consists of birds. Some of their most common prey items include sparrows, finches, Bohemian Waxwings, Least Sandpipers and other birds.

When we lived in West Duluth we had a pair of Merlins nesting in a tall pine tree across the street from our house. Until they came to the neighborhood we had Pine Siskins, Goldfinches, Chickadees and other small birds coming to our two feeders. That all changed once the Merlins arrived. Pre Merlins, our feeders were often full of birds, after they came, a few daring ones would take the risk to eat our niger and sunflower seeds. Under the Merlin's nesting tree I would find little bird skulls. It's sad but it's nature.

Other animals that eat songbirds and their eggs are squirrels, foxes, owls, hawks and raccoons.

Crows are omnivores. They will eat pretty much anything they can find, including garbage, carrion, insects, seeds, grain, berries, fruit, spiders, snails, earthworms, frogs, small snakes, mice, shellfish and even the eggs and young of other bird species.

Yes, crows will eat baby birds but according to Allen Fish, from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, eggs and nestlings are probably 10 on his list of factors harming the songbird population. Mr. Fish goes on to say urban environments are often hostile places for songbirds because of a host of reasons: habitat loss, human activity, noise, a huge problem as songbirds need to hear each other to accomplish most aspects of reproduction, (we all know how noisy it can be in the spring and summer on Park Point), window kills, cat kills, loss of insect prey, poison and pesticide use.

Sandra Carlson

A source of information: Alison Hawkes is the online editor of Bay Nature.

<https://baynature.org/2013/04/17/why-are-there-so-fewer-songbirds-and-so-many-crows/>





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

### Prayer Box

A Prayer Box for the Community has been placed in front of St. Andrew's. Prayer request may be written on the forms in the box and deposited in the slot on the side. All are confidential.

**Free** face masks and hand sanitizer for the taking are also in the box.

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

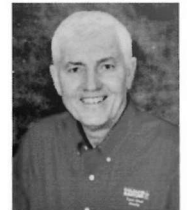


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*phone calls unavailable, Prices by project.*

*Thank you*

## NEEDED: A NEW HOME

Two Park Point animals are looking for their new home. Babe, the very smart little dog, and Jack, the cat with the world's loudest purr, are a bonded pair. They belong to Sarah Sandstrom, who is in hospice. She's unable to care for them.

Babe loves the beach and has many friends there. Jack loves a good rub, and his loud purring will make you laugh!

If possible, they would like to be together.

If you have room in your heart and your home for these sweet animals, please contact Julie Caligure at 218-340-0628.

Thanks for your help!



### **News from the Erosion and High Water Committee**

The City of Duluth and the US Army Corp of Engineers reach out to our committee asking for our assistance. They wanted the PPCC Erosion and High Water Committee to reach out to those residents and property owners in the Beach Nourishment area of Park Point, ie, the Lift Bridge to the S turn. They wanted to get feedback from those residents who live from the bridge to 9th street where Beach Nourishment happened in 2020. They also wanted our committee to reach out to the residents in the area where Beach Nourishment is proposed for 2021, ie, 9th street to the S turn. Our committee is composing two letters. The one to those in the 2020 Beach Nourishment area is asking them for their comments and feedback on how they access the 2020 project. We are also composing a letter to those residents in the proposed 2021 Beach Nourishment area. In that letter we will explain the process that will have to occur before placement of dredge material on the City park, the Beach of Park Point. We will also solicit questions, comments and concerns about the proposed 2021 Beach Nourishment project.

We didn't have a Committee meeting in Oct. but hope to have one in Nov.  
Hope you all are healthy and safe.

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](mailto:eroe@duluthmn.gov)

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

City Councilor Roz Randorf [rrandorf@duluthmn.gov](mailto:rrandorf@duluthmn.gov)

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

**November:**

**Plants sleep at their roots now.**

Do nothing in the garden; the half frozen  
Soil has forgotten its own past summers.  
Houseplants withdraw from conversation,  
dreaming like cats on the windowsills,  
vaguely hoping for sun. All vitality has  
been absorbed into the air; just breathing  
is enough to live.

## Got it Done!

