

NEWS LOCAL

Park Point display spotlights violence against Indigenous women

Twin Ports events are planned for the National Day of Awareness for MMIWR on Monday.



As part of a display for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives, Park Point residents hung red clothing along the fence at Franklin Park. Emma McNamee / Duluth Media Group

**By Emma McNamee**

May 04, 2025 at 6:21 PM

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DULUTH — Along the stretch of Lake Avenue that runs through the Park Point neighborhood, residents have hung red dresses and shirts in their front yards.

Joining the ongoing work of local advocates, the display is part of an effort to draw attention to the violence Indigenous women face, ahead of May 5, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives.

“We have such an interesting, unique piece of geography here, and I thought, ‘What can we do with these properties that's useful and interesting and impactful?’” said Lisa McKhann, one of the Park Point residents who helped set up the display. “Our neighborhood is sort of custom-made for this ... and hopefully it'll bring some awareness to this cause.”



A red dress hangs from a tree outside a Park Point residence as part of a display for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives. Emma McNamee / Duluth Media Group

Park Point Community Club members helped organize the display, which started Thursday. It will remain up through Monday as part of the Native Lives Matter Coalition's 5th Annual National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives. Along with other community partners, the Native Lives

Matter Coalition has organized public events throughout the afternoon.



MMIWR rally participants march down First Street in downtown Duluth on May 6, 2024. Wyatt Buckner / File / Duluth Media Group

Starting at noon, advocates will have tables at Duluth City Hall to speak with city representatives and community members about how violence impacts Indigenous women and their families. There will be an opportunity to decorate cars for the car caravan later in the afternoon.



FROM 2023: Nearly 8 years later, Duluth woman's disappearance remains unsolved(<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/the-vault/duluth-womans-disappearance-nears-eight-year-anniversary-with-no-end-in-sight>)

A picture of Sheila St. Clair is displayed on a Duluth billboard. St. Clair has been missing since August 2015.

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Representatives from the Twin Ports will be there to speak, including Duluth Mayor Roger Reinert and Superior Mayor Jim Paine. People impacted by the loss of a family member and advocates for MMIWR awareness will be speaking during the program.

Following a community round dance honoring missing and murdered Indigenous women, there will be a smudge walk and car caravan at 2:30 p.m. from City Hall to the area on the 100 block of West First Street where [Chantel Moose, 25, of Duluth, \(https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/local/duluth-homicide-suspect-set-to-face-trial\)](https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/local/duluth-homicide-suspect-set-to-face-trial) was killed April 12, 2024. The jury trial for her murder is set to begin May 13.



Rene Ann Goodrich speaks at the MMIWR rally outside Duluth City Hall on May 6, 2024. Wyatt Buckner / File / Duluth Media Group

“We have our own cases here in Duluth, just like the cases across the rest of Minnesota and Wisconsin ... and everywhere else,” said

Rene Ann Goodrich, organizer with the Native Lives Matter Coalition. “(MMIWR awareness day) provides a platform for families to get visibility, to find support, for our community to help find healing and the justice that's needed for MMIWR and their families.”



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A remembrance was held for the Brookston man, 31, one year after his disappearance.

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Despite making up 1% of the state's population, the [Minnesota Department of Public Safety](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/offices-missing-murdered/mmir-office/about-mmir-office/reports-statistics-and-news)(<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/offices-missing-murdered/mmir-office/about-mmir-office/reports-statistics-and-news>) reported that 10% of all women reported missing in Minnesota last year were Indigenous. There were 716 Indigenous people reported missing in 2024.

Homicide is the third-leading cause of death for Indigenous women in the U.S., and nearly [85% of Indigenous women and girls](https://ncjtc-static.fvtc.edu/resources/RSo2402203.pdf)(<https://ncjtc-static.fvtc.edu/resources/RSo2402203.pdf>) have experienced some type of violence, the National Criminal Justice Training Center reports. Over half of Indigenous women and girls face intimate partner violence or sexual assault, and are almost twice as likely to experience violence, compared to Caucasian women.



Outside Park Point's Lafayette Park, a line of red dresses makes up part of a miles-long display for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives. Emma McNamee / Duluth Media Group

“The amount of assaults and violence against women in general is out of hand, but for the Indigenous population, even more so,” said McKhann. “The inhumanity of these cases, lingering here, all over the state and all the region is something that I think people want to bring notice to in a concrete way, or as concrete as an article of clothing in the rain can be.”



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Law enforcement officials say they are seeking solutions to the "dire" situation that has stalled investigations into child sexual abuse material.

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McKhann said that over 100 houses participated in the display by hanging red clothing in front of their homes. Other displays are expected to pop up around the Twin Ports on Monday. The Park Point Community Club received an influx of donations, which McKhann plans to hand over to the Native Lives Coalition to be used for future displays.

“We have so many community partners who work with us,” said Goodrich. “But I do want to give a shoutout to Park Point. I appreciate their solidarity in kicking this off and joining in with support for our community and ongoing campaign with the Native Lives Coalition ... they join a call for justice and support for our Indigenous families.”

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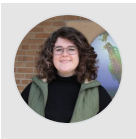
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