

The Breeze

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Submissions for the
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Vol. 63 Issue 9

Of Park Point

September 2025

Upcoming Events

Lafayette
Community
Edible Garden
Potluck
September 8th,
6-8 PM at
Lafayette

Park Point
Community
Club
Sept. 16th
6:45 social
7PM meeting
at Lafayette

Park Point
Flower
Garden Club
contact
Sue Solin
218-349-0682

**Farewell
Summer
We will miss
you!**



September is here on Park Point, and with it comes the kind of moments that remind us why living by the canal is so fascinating. I was out on my boat recently expecting nothing more than a routine ship arrival when the Mesabi Miner came gliding in. Then, without warning, its horn got stuck wide open and blasted for more than four minutes straight. The sound rolled down Lake Avenue and Minnesota Avenue, echoed across the beach, must've rattled many windows, and absolutely reached Sky Harbor Airport, and the end of the Point. Out of all the ship moments I've seen, this one stood out as something I'd never experienced before. You can imagine the Point foxes pausing, almost as if they were thinking huh.

Life on Park Point is full of these surprising and memorable stories. Back in 1985 the ocean vessel Socrates ran aground on the lake side of the Point. For newer Pointers and friends reading the Breeze, that piece of history is a reminder of how much has happened right here where we live. More recently, ships have scraped the canal wall, run aground in a few spots, and now a stuck ship horn joins the list of moments people will be talking about for years in Duluth.

As September rolls in, the waves grow taller and the winds shift, adding a little extra energy to every ship arrival and departure. That's part of the fun of living here. Each ship that comes through connects us not only to the season we're in but also to the stories and maritime history that make Park Point so cool.

By: Vibe with Mike

President's Report

Hi Neighbors,

Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, September 16 in upper Lafayette; hope to see you there. If you have new neighbors, maybe consider bringing them along? We hope to have wrap up reports on our summer programming: PP Art Fair and Camp Lafayette. A big thank you to Carla Tamburro and the Art Fair Committee and all of the volunteers. There was a whole lot of fun happening at Lafayette and around the community with the summer youth program led by Carolyn Kerns. How lucky are we to have neighbors committed to supporting and providing these wonderful opportunities on Park Point?

National Night Out on August 5th at Lafayette was a lot of fun: fabulous food, awesome music, good conversations and a lot of laughing. The link to photos is here. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/F6tKqta1XAo44NBV8>. I've heard from a number of neighbors that they really enjoyed the international flair of the duo "Water Cat" with the very talented Henry and Emma. Officers Jeremy and Josh from DPD stopped by to say hi and check in. Thank you to our neighbors at St. Andrews By The Lake for partnering and to everyone who played a role in creating this memorable evening at Lafayette.

Turnout for the 8/18 Parks and Recreation public meeting to review and comment on the concept designs for the Park Point Recreation Area was noteworthy. The neighbors & community members in attendance offered up important details, park history, and asked great questions while providing feedback on the design concepts. Here are just a few that I heard: parking lot next to boat launch needs to accommodate boat trailers, what about the existing trees, how is a coastal engineer involved in shoreline planning, paths to the beach must meander, no straight paths, what about the road leading into the park as it's not bike friendly at all, where will the PP Art Fair fit on the fields and roads, how will view shed & conflicts with airport glide path be planned and managed. Photos from Monday 8/18 at Lafayette.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ba9Y9EJiBBEWJyh28> Engaging in this process and contributing your ideas to the park plans is beneficial in a number of ways; thank you!

Summer isn't over yet and if you haven't done something you really wanted to do, it's not too late. Think of what you did accomplish. Pull out your phone and review your photos from May onward and you might be surprised :) at what you have been up to!

Please take a look at the Minnesota Point 50 report here in The Breeze and consider contributing and getting involved with the upcoming projects. The newest initiatives build upon decades of stewardship and care by Park Pointers and it's exciting and inspiring to have the next generation joining the efforts. We have more work to do and we need you!

Thank you & stay tuned for important dates & opportunities coming soon.

See you out and about and on the water,

Dawn & Zion, master swimmer, Giant Schnauzer class

Honoring Pat Johnson

Members of the Park Point Art Fair Committee were recently touched and honored to receive a gift in the name of our friend and fellow committee member, Patricia (Pat) Johnson, whom we sadly lost to ovarian cancer in May. Pat and husband Andy (aka Butch) transplanted themselves fairly recently to Duluth, having fulfilled within the last decade a longtime dream of living beside our magnificent lake - and on Park Point, in particular - where Pat's passion for swimming was frequently entertained. World travelers and active members of both the arts and sporting communities in their prior home of Minnetonka, Pat and Andy quickly nestled in here, joining our PPAF group within their first year of residence.

Passive supporters they were not...they came to work! A talented painter, sculptor and gardener par excellence, the always enthusiastic and affable Pat was loaded with fresh, if practical ideas, all the while consistently honoring old traditions. Added together with the business background and talents of Andy, we gained "two for the price of one," as this dynamic couple, married 46 years, joined forces in helping to multiply the event's sponsors and assist in orchestrating the Artist Awards Picnic...all during their very first year.

We love and shall miss you, Pat. In a very short time, you managed to weave yourself into the fabric of our group, and into the larger Park Point and Duluth communities, as well. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Andy, your daughter Rachel, son Ted, four grandchildren and to all of your extended family and friends.

Ellen Dunlap

Delivering The Sailboat Papa Gaucho to Port Huron

On July 4th 2025, after completing Bayfield Race Week with the sailboat Papa Gaucho, Keith the captain, left Bayfield for Port Huron for the start of the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race. His plan was to deliver the boat across Lake Superior and down Lake Huron a distance of 550 to 600 miles. Our crew other than Keith,(my son-in-law) was Madeline, his daughter, Tommy, her husband, grandson Calder and me. I served as the galley wench/cook. Since Keith planned to participate in the Bayview Mac—a race from Port Huron to Mackinac Island, we'd need to spend 6-7 days on the water motoring and motor sailing.



Most people have a notion about sailing but there is seldom thought to what it takes to provision and feed the sailors aboard a moving vessel for a week. As main provisioner it was my task to purchase and stow what we might need for the journey.

Papa Gaucho, a thirty- five foot J35 racing sailboat is simply equipped with two coolers —one for food and one for beverages. We have no refrigeration. It's much like camping. Our gimballed stove (one that pivots and stays level in rough waters) is fueled with alcohol and can only accommodate one pan or tea kettle at a time. Menus are planned around keeping food either on ice or stored in cupboards. We brought lots of instant oatmeal along with granola bars for a simple breakfast. Any food using hot water makes preparation easier. Coffee in bags (similar to tea bags) work well and keeps trash to a minimum. We have many meals that use canned foods, pre-cooked rice, and instant pasta. Food that can keep on ice for several days like cold cuts and cheese last well for sandwiches. A newly purchased cooler proudly stated that ice would last for three days and it did. Vegetables keep well for a few days—sprouts for a sandwich for example. Since our local egg farmer provided us with unwashed eggs, they kept well at room temperature. We had omelets and corned beef hash for several lunches all week. Menu examples— Day one: Stir-fry using fresh veggies, packaged rice and canned chicken. Day two: Corned beef hash and eggs. Day three: Canned chili prepared with fried onion and served with Spanish rice and cheese. Day 4: Potato soup made with fresh onion & potato, chicken broth, topped with cheese. Day 5: Wild rice soup made with canned chicken soup, canned wild rice, canned chicken . Day 6: Packaged Velveeta Skillets with canned chicken. Snacks included fresh apples, carrots and assorted crackers and cookies. Instant noodles were often served when crew needed a simple hot snack at midnight when sailing through the night.

Once in port and if a grocery store was in walking distance, we could easily add fresh produce and groceries to the larder. When we arrived I left the boat to begin helping as part of the land crew and the sailors who would participate in the race came onboard to prepare the boat for the race to Mackinac Island. They added sails, removed excess weight and bought provisions suitable for a race. Edward and I served as delivery crew via truck and clocked 2000 miles for the next several weeks as Papa Gaucho raced in the Bayview Mac, Chicago Mac and Trans Superior sailboat races.

Ellie Alspach

News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

Is it worth growing garlic? Most of us adore the fresh garlic we get from our garden for its fragrant aroma, pungent taste, and moist texture. It's a far cry from the small, dried-up bulbs from China we find in our local stores. However, this year, Mother Nature has placed a curse on our garlic. It's not just in our garden, but many other Minnesota garlic growers have also experienced bad crops this year. The cause is a disease called Aster Yellow. The cause of Aster Yellow is a small, innocuous insect called the Aster leafhopper. These guys hop from garden to garden feeding on plant juices and spreading the disease. Once infected, garlic plants show signs of early yellowing and dieback, unusual smelling bulbs that are small and soft, and have dark streaking and discoloration of their wrappers. This pathogen forces us to not use cloves from this year's crop to plant garlic for the 2026 garden. Thus, at some expense, we have to buy new garlic bulbs to plant a crop for next year. At the September potluck dinner meeting we will discuss the options for garlic's future in 2026.

One aspect of our community garden that many gardeners don't know about is how our steering committee works behind the scenes to discuss issues that affect the garden, solve management issues of the garden and maintain the finances. The committee meets every month or two, as needed. Some of the items the committee is currently addressing include; updating and disbursing a contact list of garden members; sourcing wood chips or sawdust to spread in our garden paths; figuring out how to get rid of the rotting lumber in the garden that was removed from old beds; and planning the future of the garden. For example, in 2026 we need to thin out the rhubarb patch. Thinned plants will be offered to garden members, but what do we do with the leftovers? If you would like to be involved with these types of activities, let us know. We welcome fresh perspectives, and we need a few more members for the steering committee to replace those, like Dave Poulin, who have recently retired from many years of generously serving in this capacity.

If we had a scavenger hunt in the community garden would anyone find an aluminum foil pie pan and know what it is for? Yes, look carefully. There is one of these pie pans in the "Vegetable of the Year" garden bed near the entrance. Coral McDonnell placed it there as a bee watering station. Research indicates bees thrive better when there is fresh water for them to sip on during their daily routine of harvesting nectar from blooms.

Tool Tips:

Got rust on your garden tools? Use white vinegar as a cleaning base either straight, added to water, or mixed with a couple tablespoons of table salt. Soak the tools overnight and rinse and dry the next day.

Are the blades on your small hand tools getting dull? Ellie Alspach uses a Fiskars 6 In. Diamond Coated Blade Sharpener to sharpen her tools with great success. \$7.98 at Home Depot.

Want more information about the gardening fun? Missy King is the contact person for folks interested in membership in the community garden and potluck dinner info. She can be contacted at 515-991-7280, mjking@siu.edu. Our monthly potluck dinners are FREE and open to all Park Pointers. They take place at the Lafayette Community Club. Please bring your own plates, silverware, beverage and a dish to share. We will continue to have our monthly potluck dinner meetings on the second Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.

Upcoming Potluck Dinner Meetings:

September 8, 6 to 8 p.m., Fall garden wrap up session. Be prepared to answer the question: What is one thing you would change about the garden?

October 13, 6 to 8 p.m., All about squash. Bring your favorite squash recipe to share along with recipes and ideas and tips for preparing squash. We will discuss plans for our December holiday party.

-Susan Peters



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Dear Park Point Community:

A huge thank you for all the support (financial and otherwise) from this extraordinary community. With your help, MP50 has grown from an idea to an active nonprofit with grant funded projects, supportive partners, and a Coastal Resilience Action Plan for our beloved Minnesota Point. Most recently we've won a DNR/Coastal Program grant to develop a Property Owner's Guide and a Recreational Visitors Guide, as well as a substantial grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to benefit the health of the Old Growth Pine Forest.

With these exciting projects launching – and multiple actions in the planning stages (including a focus on traffic and safety) -- we need your 'leaning in' support again to help build our internal capacity to manage grants and make sure the work gets done!

MP50 is launching a fundraising effort to hire a part-time administrative staff and an Executive Director, with an initial goal of \$50,000. We are actively seeking grant funding and corporate support towards this ambitious goal.

Here's how you can help:

- Make a contribution through the MP50 Website at www.minnesotapoint50.org. (Contributions will become a 1:1 match for grants and corporate support)

Volunteer to engage in community science efforts through the USFWS grant work

- Ask your neighbors and friends to support MP50's work

THANK YOU for your support of MP50 and our work together as a community to ensure the long-term resilience of Minnesota Point!

Sincerely,

MP50 Board of Directors

Pat Sterner, President

Dawn Buck, Vice President

Charlene Roise, Treasurer

Brian Ruggle, Secretary

Paul Treuer

Jessica Boehland

Dan Ross

Dave Poulin



A public meeting on the Park Point Recreation Area Plans, held on August 18th at Lafayette was well attended by Park Pointers and other interested parties. I wish I could print pictures of the 3 development proposals offered, but I simply don't have the space. They are available on the City of duluth website, though, along with an opportunity to comment.

In lieu of an August meeting, the Park Point Community Club hosted a Neighborhood Night Out at Lafayette on August 5th



There were brats and hot dogs on the grill



Live music by the Water Cats



A cameo appearance from Mayor Reinert



a visit from the Police bike patrol



Food and conversation both inside and out

Beyond the meetings, committee reports and resident concerns, this is what the Park Point Community Club is all about: bringing Park Point neighbors together for the benefit of the whole community.

Park Point Community Club Officers:

President: Dawn Buck parkpointcc@gmail.com 218-525-1764 **Vice President:** Tom Griggs Thom0313@gmail.com
Secretary: Rory Strange rstrange3@icloud.com 218-340-7220 **Treasurer:** Mary Treuer mbtreuer@gmail.com
Art Fair coordinator: Carla Tamburro coordinator@parkpointartfair.org 218-348-7338
Rummage Sale committee: Deb Strange debstrange2008@icloud.com
Hospitality committee: Diane Gould 218- 727-4067 **Ted Buck** 218- 525-1764
The Postcard (S-curve sign): Dawn Buck parkpointcc@gmail.com
Sunshine committee: Pam Griggs pamgriggs101@gmail.com
Website: www.parkpointcommunityclub.org
Lafayette Square Rentals: Chris Seversen, Parks Permit Coordinator 218-730-4305
www.duluthmn.gov/parks/registration
The Breeze editor: Alan Dartanyan 218 726-0110 breezeditor@msn.com

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 Jeremy O'Connor JOconnor@duluthmn.gov

PP water Quality issues: Chris Kleist, ckleist@duluthmn.gov, office 218-730-4063 and 218-355-0598

Parking Services 218-730-5470

Parks & Rec: afornear@duluthmn.gov

City Councilor Roz Randorf rrandorf@duluthmn.gov 218-443-8364

City of Duluth/home 218-730-5000

duluthmn.gov/contact



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Thank you
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Community Club!!!



A Special Thank You to:
Garden Gurus, Geoff + Gudrun Witrak, Kelly + Jake Ziemski!

