



For your passion and stewardship of the Park Point Community

The Breeze

Of Park Point

Editor: Alan Dartanyan
breezeditor@msn.com
[218-726-0110](tel:218-726-0110)
Submissions for the June issue are due by 5/27/2026

Vol. 64 Issue 5

May 2026

- Upcoming Events**
- Lafayette
Community Edible
Garden Potluck
May 11th 6-8 PM
at Lafayette**
 - Park Point
Community Club
May 18th
6:45 social
7PM meeting
at Lafayette**
 - Rec Lane Chalking
Event May 2rd, 2-
4PM in front of
Lafayette**
 - Smelt Parade
May 17th 3:30PM**
 - Park Point
Rummage Sale June
12 & 13**
 - Park Point Art Fair
June 27 & 28**
 - Park Point Flower
Garden Club
contact
Sue Solin
218-349-0682**

May is here on the Point, and you can feel the shift the second you step outside. After a long winter, everything starts coming back to life at once. Yards are waking up, docks are going back in, and it is finally time to get that first round of weed and feed down. Around Duluth, we joke that 40 degrees means shorts and 50 means flip flops, and honestly, it is not far from the truth. It almost feels funny thinking back to just a few months ago, standing outside at our annual driveway holiday gathering in subzero temperatures, bundled up and laughing through it. That is just what we do.

One of the clearest signs that the season has turned is the arrival of the first oceangoing ship, or what we all call the saltie. This year, that moment belonged to the Ocean7 Ranger. The voyage started in China before crossing the Pacific Ocean, passing through the Panama Canal, continuing across the Atlantic Ocean, and working down the St. Lawrence Seaway into Lake Superior, finally arriving in Duluth. 15,000 miles and 52 days later, seeing that ship come into view from the Point reminds you how connected we are to the rest of the world.

At the same time, life along the water picks right back up. Boating season starts! Fishing poles are coming out, lines are hitting the water again, and Pointers are back outside longer each evening.

With May settling in, it is hard not to feel lucky to call the Point home.

.By: Vibe with Mike



**PPCC elections at
the May meeting!**

President's Report

Hi Neighbors,

As I tap out the combined sand and dirt from my well traveled Keens, it feels good to be back home by the big lake. (There's no place like home:)

At the upcoming May 19 PPCC meeting, we will welcome back Katie Bennett, senior planner with City of Duluth Parks and Recreation. She will share the Draft Plan for the Park Point Recreation Area and explain next steps in the planning, funding and development for the park. Elections for the Club's new board members are also on the May agenda. The nominating committee has been busy connecting with neighbors who might be interested in serving, thank you! See you on May 19 at Lafayette.

Also, thank you to everyone who attended April's PPCC meeting; special thanks to secretary Rory Strange for facilitating and the Executive Board for hosting the guests from the City providing updates on the USACE Section 111 Study. Residents engaging, learning, and collaborating will be key to finding effective and long-term solutions to the complex challenges we face on Minnesota Point. Please stay tuned for the next important date on this project.

Last night I noticed the speed trailer in the park and heard from our community officer Jeremy O'Connor that Park Point is the first neighborhood to have a speed trailer deployed this season. It's solar powered and may be down there for a month or so depending on the need for the device around town. Jeremy will be out on leave to spend time with their new baby who will be arriving soon. We may have another officer checking in with us at the May meeting. Congratulations and best wishes to Jeremy & family!

Other springtime reminders: There really is no dog poop fairy so please pick up after your dog. If you come across large animal remains on the beach, i.e. deer, bear or coyote, contact Adam Fornear, our Parks Specialist and he will contact Park Maintenance for removal. For smaller carcasses, bagging and placing in a park's garbage can is appropriate. If you suspect poaching or have questions or need support, please contact Adam at 218 730 4322. Adam also relayed the message that the City is taking down flagpoles around town and the pole in the trees at 12th is coming down, fyi. The trees at the S Curve park are looking great!

The month away adventuring in our little camper definitely had noteworthy highlights. If you find yourself on the "Forgotten Coast" of Florida, book a pontoon tour of the Dead Lakes region in Wewahitchka with Matt via Off the Map Expeditions- dogs are welcome:) Near Port St. Joe, take a wagon tour of St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, it's a barrier island with Sambar deer and red wolves. If you like hiking, hills and rocks, check out the beautiful parks in Missouri where they say "rugged" and really mean it! Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park in the St. Francois Mountains is fascinating. Upon arrival, we learned that in Dec. 2005, a nearby mountain top's hydroelectric power station's reservoir failed. 1.3 billion gallons of water rushed down Proffit Mountain destroying the campground and changing the landscape forever. Rocks dating back to 1.4 billion years were revealed in the scour. Miraculously, no one died and the power company paid to rebuild the park and campground plus the Taum Sauk station was rebuilt and has been back in service since 2010. We took a good hike and checked out the scoured region and ended up off trail due to beaver dams. I looked at videos on YouTube to find out more about the engineering of the powerstation and why the systems failed. Getting out and exploring was awesome and we are already planning our next adventure.

See you soon at our many upcoming events! Chalking Event at Lafayette May 2, Working on the Park Point Red Dress Display May 1-5, Creating at the Smelt Parade workshops, Setting up rummage sales, Camp Lafayette launching in early June, Planting gardens, Planting beach grass, Volunteering at the Art Fair & more! Please give The Breeze a good read to catch up with it all and find out what's next and how you might get involved.

With gratitude for our extraordinary lives on Park Point; see you out and about!

Dawn and Zion, Adventure Pup Extraordinaire

Park Point Community Club meeting minutes

The April 2026 monthly meeting of the Park Point Community Club was called to order by Rory Strange, Secretary (in Dawn's absence) on April 21st, 2026, at 7:05 pm. Rory welcomed everyone and a motion was made to suspend the rules to allow for updates on two upcoming events and our special presentation.

* Lisa reviewed the "Red for MMIWR Park Point – Avenue of Allies" event May 1 – 5. The goal is to have five red garments per block along Lake/Minnesota Ave.

* Brian Ruggle briefly shared the Chalk Art in the rec lane event scheduled for May 2nd.

* Pat Sterner introduced both John Dukich and Dr John Swenson who shared the updated information on the Section 111 study. After the presentation, it was opened up for Q&A and there was great participation from the community club. Of note, if you have pictures or narratives related to the changing landscape of Park Point, please share them with Paul and Pat who will gather this information for review. The Presentation ended at 8:04 pm.

At 8:05pm a motion was made to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion was approved to accept the minutes. All in attendance voted aye.

Treasurers Report -Mary Treuer

Current balance – \$45,000 in the bank. Finance report was approved by all in attendance.

Environmental Committee – Dick Gould. No report

Art Fair – Carla Tamburro

Carla shared the 2026 Art Fair poster. Food vendors have been selected, and sponsors are in place.

Remember, it's never too early to volunteer! If you'd like to be involved, contact Diane Gould. 727-0467

Watch Committee – That's us

Officer O'Connor reports that April saw vehicle prowls in the 900 block. Continue to call 911 for speeding & passing. There will be a speed trailer and a squad car to calm traffic this summer. DPD has launched a survey to gauge interest in a Volunteer Citizen's Patrol program. Please weigh in by April 30th.

Please continue to monitor activity that seems suspicious as well as traffic concerns and report to 911.

Sunshine Committee - Pam Griggs

Two Get Well cards sent

High Water & Erosion – Hamilton Smith No Report

Edible Garden - Coral McDonnell

Work has started in the garden repairing broken beds and some planting may begin on Saturday. Vegetable of the year is Cucumber!

Summer Youth Program – Carolyn Kerns No report

Rummage Sale - Deb Strange No report

Program Committee – Dave Poulin No report

Traffic Safety – Brian Ruggle

Mention again about the Telraam Program and looking for people interested in hosting a camera to monitor traffic. Please continue to report concerns. Email traffic safety issues to ParkPointTrafficSafety@gmail.com.

MP50: Pat Sterner

Pat mentioned the Fire Project is moving ahead. It could move from Spring to Fall based on conditions. There is also bat monitoring happening in the pine forest. For more detailed information, please see the MP50 report in the Breeze. To stay up to date on MP50, please go to Minnesota Point 50 (MP50) If you have any questions, please contact Pat or Paul directly at paul.treuer@gmail.com

The Breeze - Alan Dartanyan No report

Adam Fornear updated the membership that there will be a presentation at the May meeting on the Master Plan for the end of Park Point.

Elections will be held in May for several officer positions within the Club, along with programs that will need leadership. A nominating committee is in place. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact either Al, Pat or Coral. Please refer to the PPCC website for more information.

The housing survey is still open, if you haven't yet responded.

Thanks to Diane for providing coffee and homemade cookies.

Motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Strange

2026 DULUTH ROWING CLUB Upcoming Early Season Dates & Events

May 1 - Early Season Masters/Adult Rowing starts

May 16 - Open House, 10:00am - noon, everyone welcome!

June 1 - Adult Evening Learn to Row Session 1 begins

June 6 - National Learn to Row Day - 9:30 - 11:30,

free event for Twin Ports Community to come and experience rowing

June 8 - Junior Rowing Program begin

July 11 - Duluth International Regatta

From Community Police Officer Jeremy O’Conner

For those who attended the March Park Point community meeting, you likely met or saw my partner, K-9 Kallie. As promised, here’s a little more about her and her role with the Duluth Police Department.

Kallie is an American Labrador Retriever who will be turning 8 years old this summer. She plays an important role in keeping not only Duluth safe, but also Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin. She is a single-purpose K-9 trained to detect explosives, firearms, and shell casings. Kallie is currently the only explosives detection (“bomb”) dog in our immediate area, with the next closest team in the Twin Cities.

Kallie was made possible through a generous donation from the Irving Community Club when DPD was looking to add its first Labrador Retriever K-9 trained in explosives detection. When I was partnered with her in 2019, neither of us had prior experience in the police K-9 world. We trained for several months in the Twin Cities at a police K-9 school, training in places like the Mall of America, Target Field, schools, and airports.

A common question I get is, “How often is she used?” We’re actually one of the busier K-9 teams in the region. On our first day after certification, we responded to a bomb threat in the International Falls area. In addition to 911 calls involving suspicious items or threats, Kallie assists with cruise ship visits, Grandma’s Marathon, the Duluth Airshow, concerts, and other large events. We’ve also worked dignitary visits, including those involving Presidents Trump and Biden, Vice Presidents, and other heads of state. Kallie has also helped locate firearms and shell casings connected to local incidents.

At home, Kallie lives with me and is a typical family pet who enjoys swimming, playing fetch, and sunbathing. She clearly knows when she’s working and when she’s off-duty. When she eventually retires, she’ll remain with me. For now, she still loves coming to work—if I leave without her, it ruins her day—so retirement doesn’t seem to be anytime soon.



Officer Jeremy O’Connor joconnor@duluthmn.gov

Art Exhibit

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church would like to invite the Park Point Community to the opening of an art exhibit titled “All Things Bright and Beautiful”, featuring the digitized photographs of Henry Roberts. Henry was a prolific artist and world traveler who captured his adventures through the lens of his camera. After Henry died in October 2025, the St Andrew’s art committee approached Henry’s wife, Terry to see if we could display some of Henry’s photographs at St Andrew’s. The committee chose the florals he digitized and enlarged, capturing his appreciation of nature. Two of Henry’s proudest achievements were working to preserve and enhance Hartley Park. He loved exploring the world’s lesser-travelled corners and loved capturing these adventures through the lens of his camera. The opening reception will be held in the afternoon of Saturday, May 16th 2026 from 2:00 until 4:00 at St Andrew’s. Coffee and treats will be provided. Any funds earned from the sale of the artwork will be donated to the ECMN Migrant Support Fund





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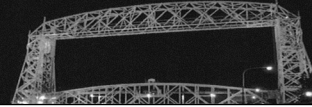
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LYNN BENTFIELD



St. Andrew's By the Lake

invites you to the opening reception of

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

An exhibition of works by Henry Roberts

Saturday, May 16th | 2 - 4 PM

St. Andrew's By the Lake Episcopal Church

2802 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth

The exhibition focuses on photographs of florals

Henry digitized and enlarged,

capturing his appreciation of nature.

All pieces are for sale.

Proceeds will be donated to

the ECMN Migrant Support Fund.



News from the Lafayette Community Edible Garden

Getting our hands dirty is just part of what we do in the community garden. This spring, watch for Dan O'Neill and his crew of volunteers sawing and hammering their way through the garden doing restoration work to the raised beds. This project is being funded by a grant made possible from St. Andrews by the Lake Church. We thank the parish kindly for its continued support of the garden and the many other ways it helps make Park Point a great place to live. Oh, and when we are not getting our hands dirty, we may also be cooking up the vegetables we gather to create good victuals for our monthly potluck dinner meeting.

Garden work has commenced and we really are getting our hands dirty now. Starting on April 25, the community gardeners got to work in the garden. Weather permitting, watch for them there each Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Stop by to say "Hello," bring them a treat or pitch in, if you are so inclined. Here's what they are working on in the next month:

4/25, planting potatoes, arugula

5/2, planting lettuce, radishes

5/9, planting peas, carrots, beets, onions, chard, scallions

5/30, planting cucumbers, winter squash, beans, basil, tomatoes, leeks

6/6, planting peppers

Sounds like a lot of dirty hands!

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 – Save the Dates.

May 11: 6 p.m. Ted Buck and Tom Chrisfield have ideas to share about automated watering systems for the garden. Ellie reports on her trip to South America and tells us all about the good food she got to eat, I hope. Ellie says, "It was called an expedition ship [trip,] since we'd be doing Citizen Science which also included bird counts, wild life sightings, photography classes, and lectures about where we'd travel in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico."

June 8: 5:45 p.m. Annual garden blessing in the garden before our dinner.

Susan Peters

Remembering LeAne Rutherford

It is with great sadness that I note the passing of my longtime Sunday coffee partner & friend - and likely yours, too - LeAne Haase Rutherford. Even if you did not know her name, you probably chatted more than once with this friendly and engaging Park Point presence on her near-daily bike rides to the Lift Bridge and beyond.

Neighbor and friend Lynn Bentfield, who first encountered LeAne as her English teacher at Washington Jr. High, recalled how meaningful she found her poetry instruction...only to find herself a student again many years later, as she learned from her the basics of kayaking, as a newly-minted Baysider. Another pupil, recalling her French class, remembers "how elegant we all thought she was!" After switching gears and joining the University of Minnesota, LeAne served students and faculty there in numerous capacities, retiring in her 70's as head of Faculty Development. Married to genial Scotsman and Navy veteran Bruce Rutherford - himself, a world traveler and scholar who devoted his career to Academic Counseling, in his position as Advisor to International Students - she enjoyed the unending respect of her colleagues, as she fostered excellence in teaching. The two eventually satisfied a longtime goal of living on the Point, where Bruce, a native of Superior, WI, was raised. Bruce died in 2018, their son Cameron having predeceased them in 1991.

Though LeAne never abandoned her native Cloquet roots & friendships, both were devoted to UMD, the city of Duluth and Park Point, especially. Together, they were all about community, in every way. Active members of the PPCC, both were valued contributors to the Park Point Art Fair who served as volunteers for more than two decades. Rarely did they miss a monthly Edible Garden Club potluck. ("I really don't LIKE gardening very much!" she once confessed to me, in a sudden epiphany, "but these Garden Club folks are such delightful people, and the speakers there are so interesting, I find them hard to resist!") In her retirement, she joined several other Pointers in taking on the game of bridge as a favorite pastime, laughing together with friends who were either re-learning or taking it up for the first time. "We surprised ourselves at how good we were!" noted friend Joanne Ellison.

LeAne was a prolific writer, her interests going beyond the academic to topics ranging from the arts, to nature and the countless people and places that intrigued her. After moving a few years ago to Sacramento, where she joined her sister and "best friend" Barb, she quickly immersed herself in that community, making friends and contributing numerous articles of special interest to local publications there. LeAne was above all a lifelong learner, a person who stood out as interested in every thing and every person she met...someone who rarely encountered an idea that didn't capture her in some way. Following a series of medical treatments this past fall, she effused, "I'm sure there's an article in this!" Little left LeAne daunted for long. When side effects from medication made her uneasy about venturing too far from home on her bike, she opted to install it on a stand in her garage, leaving the door propped open. "I sit there like a queen on my throne," she laughed, "entertained by my lovely neighbors when they stop by for a chat." A lifelong tennis enthusiast, she continued playing to within weeks of her death...negotiating with her doctors when they proposed limits. "They told me I'd have to wait six weeks!" she grumbled. "We'll see about that!"

Lynn Bentfield mused on advice LeAne offered her students long ago: "When walking outside, always be aware...look all around you, not just straight ahead. Take it all in.' It was her way of instilling in us a lifetime of appreciating nature." I cannot think of a better metaphor for our neighbor LeAne...a bright light that will never quite be extinguished. [Those who wish to recall memories or send condolences may consider addressing them to her beloved sister, Barbara Jeffus.]

Submitted by Ellen Dunlap

MP50 Program Committee Breeze Report

MP50 continues to be active with partners on multiple projects; six are summarized below. In-depth reports will be included in the May MP50 Program Committee Newsletter.



Section 111. City officials, Mayor Reinert, John Dukich, John Swenson, and Kate Kubiak presented recent Section 111 updates to the PPCC Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Foremost was the disclosure that the USACE acknowledges that the Duluth and Superior breakwaters are blocking 100% of the sediment.

City officials have been in discussions with Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith to help move the study and follow-up actions along.

Manidoo Ishkodeng - The Return of Fire to Minnesota Point. As the snow melts, the prescribed burn operations team is looking closely at site conditions, assessing personnel and equipment availability, and wrapping up necessary agreements to be prepared for a burn window in the coming weeks or months. As is the nature of fire, the burn will occur when the conditions are right. Careful consideration is also being given to the phenology of plants and lifecycles of wildlife, keeping in mind there will be patches of pine forest that remain unburned.

Housing Policy. In late 2025, the City of Duluth instituted a one-year moratorium on new vacation rental permits, including those offered through Airbnb and VRBO, so staff can study their impacts on housing availability and community character and develop improvements to the current permitting system. MP50 is continuing to work with the Park Point Community Club to develop input for consideration. Thanks to everyone who was able to share their experiences and ideas through the community survey, which has now closed.

Traffic Safety. Chalk it Up: A Community Chalk Art Event. The public is invited to join neighbors to create art on the recreational lane in front of Lafayette on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The purpose of this event is to bring visibility to the Recreational Lane now that it is open for the summer.

Education Materials. MP50, in partnership with Dovetail Partners, has begun work to create a set of educational materials for Minnesota Point residents, visitors, and the broader public, with a goal of increasing the cultural, recreational, and environmental resilience of the Point. We invite you to participate in focus groups and surveys this summer that inform these materials.

Dune Day. Minnesota Point's dunes are a valued and rare coastal system in Minnesota. A new Dune Stewardship Initiative is beginning to take shape to support shared understanding and care for the dunes. With support from Minnesota's Coastal Program at the Department of Natural Resources, early planning is underway for a community Dune Day and a Dune Stewards Program. More information will be shared as details develop.

MP50 is a non-profit organization leading efforts to ensure the ecological, cultural, and economic resilience of Minnesota Point. Visit MP50 at: <https://minnesotapoint50.org>

T'AI CHI CHIH a moving meditation

I will be offering a free class of T'ai Chi Chih which is a simple, soft,

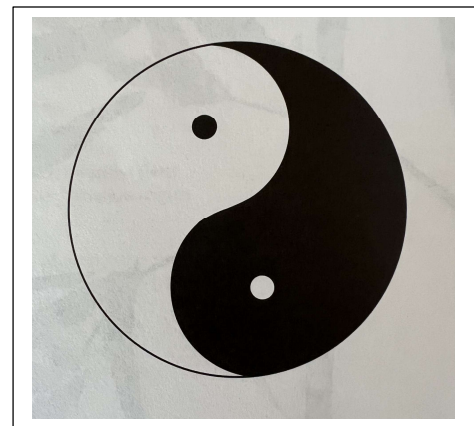
gentle variation of T'ai Chi

The 7 week session will start June 17-July 24.

We will meet from 5 pm-5:45 at the basketball courts at Lafayette.

For more information, contact Joanne Ellison at

moonpinecone@gmail.com.



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

Animal Control 218-730-4846

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

City of Duluth/home 218-730-5000

duluthmn.gov/contact



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